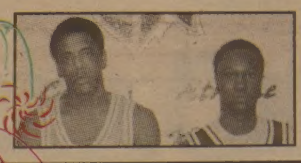
Check out our Wine and Dine section
— Page 8

RING IN THE NEW MILLENNIUM

With our special Millennium section, See Page 9



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— Page 20

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NIAGARA NEWS

A contest of Titanic proportion
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See Page 16 for details

Jan. 21, 2000 FREE VOLUME 30 ISSUE 7

Niagara News is produced by the Journalism - Print students at Niagara College, Welland Campus

The Festival of Lights in Victoria Park, Niagara Falls, hosted its annual New Year's celebration in December. Those attending the celebration were treated to a fireworks display, and performances by The Jeff Healy Band, Leahy and Boomtang Boys.

Photo by Penni Lafleur

College seeks applied degree-granting status

By JOHN ROBBINS
Staff Writer

Future Niagara College graduates may be a degree above the rest — literally.

Niagara College's Board of Governors approved a motion to send a letter asking the province to consider giving the college the power to grant applied degrees in the future, at its Dec. 16 meeting.

"We are disadvantaging Niagara students by not opening this (applied degree) issue," said Dan Patterson, president of Niagara College.

While colleges in some other Canadian jurisdictions most notably — Alberta and British Columbia — can grant degrees, in Ontario this power is reserved for universities. Exceptions to this rule, called "ministerial consent," are rare.

"We're not intending to overlap or duplicate universities," said Patterson, adding, "We like who we are."

Bonnie Rose, vice-president academic, agrees.

"We in no way want to devalue our own diploma credential, which is becoming more and more recognized."

"Certainly Niagara College views itself as one of the most advanced, rigorous and credible community colleges in Ontario, and we are determined to maintain that (status)."

Rose noted that in some cases a degree is necessary for an employee to advance into a management position later in his or her career.

In order to meet the needs of graduates, the college, said Rose, has secured a number of articulation agreements with various universities. The agreements allow graduates from specific Niagara College programs to receive credit towards a degree.

Rose declined to speculate on which diploma-level, college programs might become degree programs if and when colleges are authorized to grant degrees.

Instead, Rose emphasized the preliminary nature of the college's letter to the minister.

"We felt the need to signal our intent to the minister, to investigate this area."

Niagara College is not the only college pursuing "increased" credentials for its students.

The Association of Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology, which represents Ontario's 25 community colleges, has included the issue of applied degrees in current discussions about a new governing charter for Ontario colleges.

Barry Sharpe, administrative staff representative on the board of governors, abstained from voting on the issue. In a later interview, Sharpe said he withheld his support for the motion for reasons involving board procedure, but said he is in favour of the college seeking degree-granting status.

"As far as the general direction (taken) with respect to credentials, as a college manager, I am very supportive," he said.

"It's a much bigger question than the right to grant applied degrees," Sharpe cautioned. "It's a matter of academic justification."

Canada Customs informs public of border guidelines

By MATT HOLLEY
Staff Writer

The Canada Customs and Revenue Agency (CCRA) hosted its first Customs Information Day on Saturday, Jan. 15, in Niagara Falls, Ont., at the Ameri-Cana Resort and Conference Centre.

The day provided importers, exporters and the public access to information on different aspects of border enforcement and legislation. Over 25 booths were set up, with many Canadian and American government departments answering questions from the public. Information seminars were available also. The seminars offered a variety of custom-related topics, ranging from importing, trade requirements, and the North American Free Trade Act.

Inspector Craig Vanderklei was on hand to answer questions at the Prohibited Goods and Drug Paraphernalia booth. On display were seized weapons, such as brass knuckles, nunchakus and an assortment of knives.

Continued on Page 2

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CANADA CUSTOMS

Guns, other contraband grab public's eye at Custom's information seminar

Continued from page 1

Also on display were samples of a wide variety of drugs and drug-related paraphernalia, such as pipes, needles and rolling papers.

"People try to bring all sorts of stuff across the border," said Vanderklei, adding he's seen people try to bring table legs with nails in them into the country.

He said a lot of the time punishment results from the amount seized.

"Say you get caught with some pot. It's a $220 fine for every gram. We also seize your car, and that's before any criminal charges are laid," Vanderklei said.

He said if the seized car has had any alterations made to it, like a secret compartment or fake paneling, the car may never be returned.

Inspector Andy Jansen was available at the Importing Firearms into Canada booth to comment on regulations regarding importation of firearms.

An alligator head was one of many displayed items protected by an international treaty. Environment Canada attended the conference to raise awareness concerning the importing of protected species into the country.

Photo by Matt Holley

Border officers reject up to 20,000 people a year.

"I wouldn't even want to give a number for the amount of guns seized at the different ports of entrance in Canada. I know at the Fort Erie port over 1,000 guns were seized in 1999," Jansen said.

On display were three guns to catch the public's eye: a Winchester Marine Defender shotgun; a Ruger Mini 14 Ranch rifle, seized from a $5-million yacht along with some marijuana; and a Tech 9 machine gun, one of the more popular choices for urban assault, found in a car crossing into Canada. The Tech 9 is banned in Canada and the U.S.

"Most of the time the guns are seized because people, for some reason, believe if they declare their guns they're going to get in trouble. With proper documentation and reason, they really don't have to be worried," Jansen said.

John Johnson, regional director of Canada Customs, Niagara-Fort Erie Division, said the information day is a good idea. He said with the increase in cross-border trade, these kinds of events are needed to raise awareness.

Johnson said the border officers reject up to 20,000 people a year. He said a lot of the time it is up to the officer's discretion.

"Our concern, from a people's standpoint, is to keep the criminals out," Johnson said.

Environment Canada had a booth set up with information on the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). Carolyn Duffield, a wildlife awareness officer with the Canadian Wildlife Service, said over 146 countries have signed the CITES treaty. All species protected by CITES are found in the CITES Control List. Any animal or plant listed under CITES is protected alive and as any by-product and derivative.

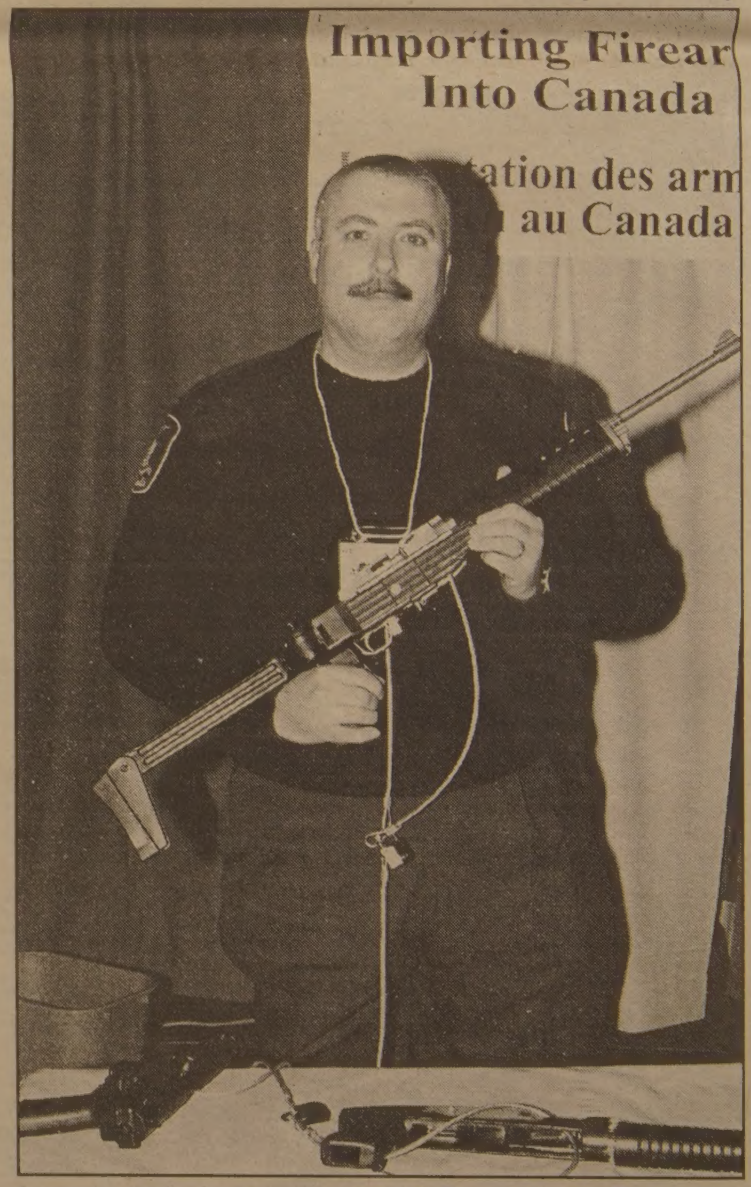
"Anyone bringing any souvenir listed under CITES into the country will need a proper permit if they want to keep it," Duffield said.

Block Parents, in conjunction with the Our Missing Children program, provided identification cards with children's pictures, a thumbprint, and a brief physical description.

"Everybody should get it done, especially with this being a border town," said Darlene Sullivan, of Burlington, who was there with her young daughter.

Appearing and performing for the crowd was Scooter, a 17-month-old black Labrador detector dog. His handler, Phil Wilson, ran him through his detection routine for the crowd. Scooter found the small amount of marijuana hidden in a cabinet and received his expected praise. Scooter is a passive detection dog, meaning once he finds the drug he sits at the spot rather than pawing and scratching at it (active detection).

Also at the conference was CCRA's x-ray van. The van is able to detect contraband by using x-rays to scan the contents of parcels.



Inspector Andy Jansen with a seized Ruger Mini 14 Ranch rifle. The rifle was one of three firearms on display at the Canada Customs Information Day.

Photo by Matt Holley

Hey, Couples!!

Do you have a special Valentine's story that you'd like to share?

Come visit me, Lisa, in S212 at the Welland campus before Jan. 31, or call 735-2211 ext. 7751 to have your story or special memory printed in our Valentine's edition, February 11, 2000.

CAMPUS COVERAGE

It's all about giving at Niagara

'Adopt an Angel' program successful at all three Niagara College campuses

By PENNI LAFLEUR
Staff Writer

The angels among us were quite successful in touching the lives of the less fortunate at Christmas time.

They collected food and money for the needy. They placed nametags on the Christmas trees in the library for others to select and buy a gift to make a child's Christmas happier, and they even went so far as to auction themselves off to raise money for others.

Chris Williams, office manager for the Student Administrative Council (SAC) at Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake and Maid of the Mist campus in Niagara Falls, said they were "overwhelmed" with the response from the staff and students at both campuses for the "Adopt an Angel" program, which collected more than 40 gifts at the Glendale campus alone.

Williams said the Welland campus collected more than 50 gifts for children registered through Community Care.

"I think we went through about 25 cards on the tree," said Andrea Bowman, SAC president at the Maid of the Mist campus in Niagara Falls.

The Maid of the Mist campus held a "Rent-a-Friend" event on Nov. 30, at East Side Mario's, on Lundy's Lane in Niagara Falls, to help raise money for the needy.

Bowman said they raised $200 at the event and donated the money to Project Share of Niagara Falls.

Project Share is partially funded by the United Way and fund-raises 50 per cent of its own budget through bingo, Nevada tickets, and donations from the public and unions. It is different from Community Care, as they supply food, housing and crisis intervention. They offer housing for the homeless through private market rental units and motel rooms.

At left, Andrea Bowman, SAC president at the Maid of the Mist campus in Niagara Falls, presented a cheque on Dec. 16, for $200 raised at a SAC-sponsored event, "Rent-a-Friend," to *Roxanne Felice, executive director of Project Share in Niagara Falls.*

Photo by Penni Lafleur

Health plan

By JASON VIZBULIS
Staff Writer

Niagara College students in January Start programs have until Feb. 11 to opt out of the mandatory-fee student health plan.

The plan, provided by the Student Administrative Council (SAC), costs $49.84, which is added to the cost of tution. It covers 80 per cent of the cost of all prescription drugs. It also pays for emergency taxi service to the hospital or the doctor's office, to a maximum of $50. Full-time students wanting to opt out must prove they already have coverage through employment or another plan. They can pick up the opt-out form at any of SAC's offices in Welland, Niagara Falls or Niagara-on-the-Lake. Students will receive a $39.84 reimbursement after deduction of the $10 administrative charge.

Part-time students can sign up for the program by picking up a form at the SAC offices and paying $49.84. All January Start students who want complete family coverage must pay $66.

Smoke 'em if you got 'em

Workers from Losco Construction pour footings that will soon support one of seven smoke shelters under construction at the Welland campus.

Photo by John Robbins

Food drive successful

By ROBERT LAPENSÉE
Staff Writer

Niagara College's Student Administrative Council (SAC) is calling the Food for Friends drive a success.

"(The food drive) turned out very well. (There was a) good response for the food drive," Vice-President of Campus Events David Seto said, referring to people contributing to the food boxes that were scattered around Niagara College campuses in Welland, Niagara Falls and Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Students at the college could contribute non-perishable food items into these boxes last year between Nov. 1 until Dec. 17. Food was also received from college staff members who were collecting food in brown bags and handing it in to SAC.

The food drive received about $2,000 worth of food, including a $1,000 donation made by Canadian Tire Acceptance. SAC used this money to buy more food.

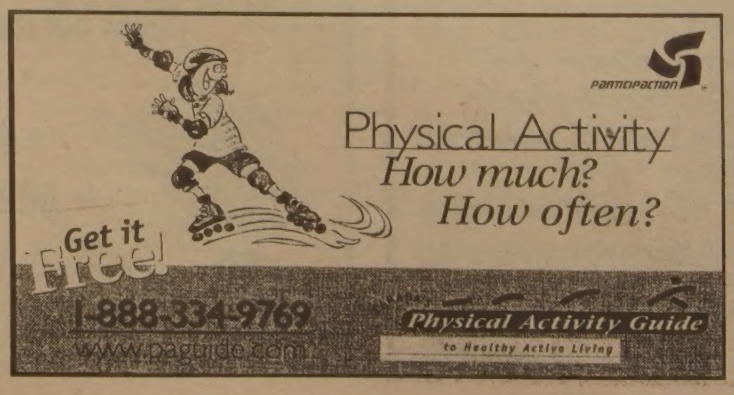
"We went to Zehrs and got some food vouchers and non-perishables," Seto said.

The food vouchers from Zehrs can be used to buy perishable food such as meats and dairy products.

Seto said there is still a lot of food left and that the SAC is still handing it out.

"You can still pick up food, but please no more donations. We want to get rid of what we have left."

Students can go to the SAC office and pick up food with no questions asked and no strings attached.



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CAMPUS COVERAGE

ESL students enjoy teachers, program

By NATSUKO TAMURA
Staff Writer

The instructors smile, refreshed after their holiday, and welcome students for the winter term.

However, this relatively warm, snowless winter for Canadians seems even too cold for most of the students in Niagara College's English as a Second Language (ESL) program.

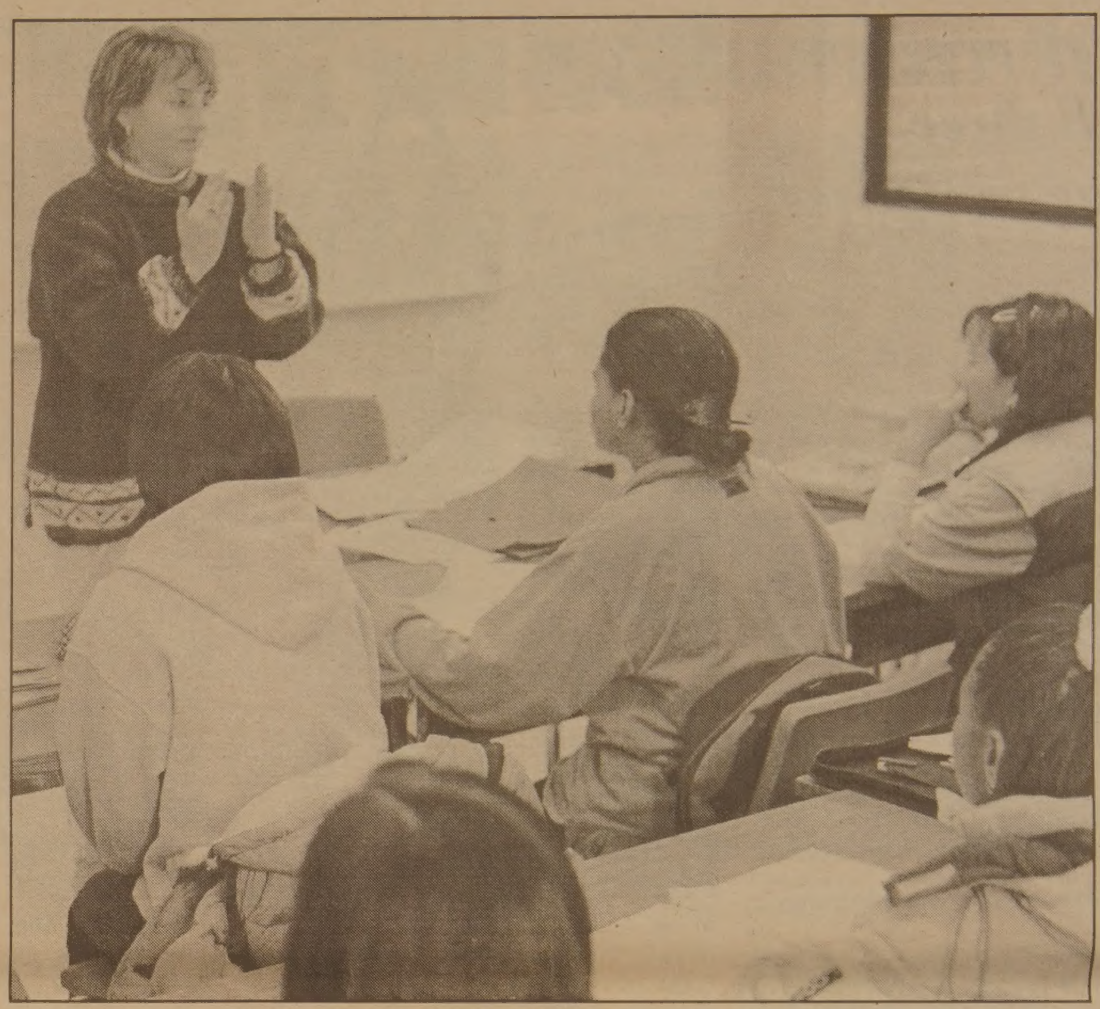
"It's cold" should be the most frequently used English phrase among ESL students this year so far. Some are bundled up with warm, thick coats, and others shiver and shrink their shoulders while smoking outside the building.

'Canada is a peaceful and very friendly country.'
— Alice Mwaijale

The ESL program launched the first term of the millennium with 34 new students and 40 returning students. With the steady number of students, the mix of nationalities broadened. They have more Chinese students than ever, and they also welcomed students from Argentina and African countries, such as Tanzania, Botswana and Ghana, said Susan Vandenboom, program co-ordinator.

With neatly braided long hair and sleek polished nails, 24-year-old Alice Mwakijale, of Tanzania, has just finished the first day of school.

"It was good. Teachers are very friendly and charming," said Mwaijale about her class.



Students in the English as a Second Langauge (ESL) program listen as their teacher gives her lesson.

Photo by Natsuko Tamura

She's the first student from Tanzania who has come to Niagara College. She plans to attend a post-secondary program after ESL at the college. She chose Canada to study English because Canada is a "peaceful" and "very friendly" country.

While she likes her new life, "I miss my family so much. We're so close to each other," Mwaijale said, adding she keeps in touch with them through e-mail. She's the third daughter of seven children.

'It was good. Teachers are very friendly and charming.'
— Alice Mwaijale

Her classmate, Chawada Nlatenge, 21, one of the few students from Botswana, said she enjoys her English lessons. After completing the ESL program, she's going to take a post-secondary program at the college. She has a big family too — five sisters and three brothers. She's the youngest, and says she misses home.

Commenting on her experiencing of a new culture, Nlatenge said the eating style is the hardest thing to adjust to, explaining they eat dinner in the *afternoon in her country.*

The other difficulty is, of course, the struggle with the cold weather. As well, Mwaijale said she was surprised it gets dark quickly and the early morning is dark like the night.

"It's very different."

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College offers new computer course for disabled adults

By MIRANDA HUBBS
Staff Writer

Niagara College and the Ontario March of Dimes have come together to offer computer training to adults with disabilities.

The course is designed to "provide adults with the right skills to help them get back into the workforce," says Harry Ennis.

The course is offered to any adult with a disability, whether he or she has had some experience with computers or none at all.

The 22-week course begins Jan. 31 and offers participants the opportunity to gain marketable skills in such business software packages as MS Office Professional '97 and Simply Accounting. Students will also receive training with a local employer through a six-week co-op placement. The purpose of the placement is to "build a trusting, working relationship" with potential employers after graduation, says Ennis.

'. . . to provide adults with the right skill to get them back into the workforce.'
— Harry Ennis

The course has had an 80 per cent success rate of students getting jobs from their co-op placements or in their field of training.

For more information call Ennis at 687-8484 or toll free at 1-800-263-4742.

CALLING ALL BANDS

The Niagara News is now taking reservations for bands who want to be published in *Riding the Riff* #IV, a music feature to be published **March 24, 2000.**

Qualifications:

- A local band/musician
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Niagara News is now weekly!

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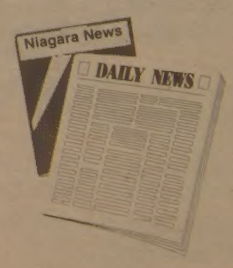

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

ACAATO to discuss new charter next month

Proposed charter may be presented to Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities by spring

By JOHN ROBBINS
Staff Writer

Thirty-two years and 650,000 graduates later, much has changed on the campuses of Ontario's 25 community colleges.

From online courses to the average age of the students who attend them, colleges have evolved and adapted to the changing world around them.

There is, however, one aspect of the college system that has remained the same since Bill Davis, then education minister, announced its creation - the way colleges are governed.

When the Association of Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology (ACAATO) meets next month to discuss the creation of a new governing charter for colleges, this too might change.

"The role of ACAATO is to support your endeavors," said Pam Derks, director of policy and research at ACAATO, during a meeting of Niagara College's Board of Governors on Dec. 16, 1999.

As part of a provincewide consultation process involving member colleges and other stakeholders, Derks led the Board of Governors in an open discussion about the charter issue. Derks said by visiting individual colleges and meeting with their boards of governors ACAATO hopes to get input into the proposed charter. These findings are to be presented during ACAATO's annual general meeting, to be held at the Sheraton Fallsview Hotel and Conference Centre, in Niagara Falls, Feb. 20 and 21, hosted by Niagara College.

If approved, the proposed charter will be presented to the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, perhaps as early as this spring.

In broad terms, ACAATO, through its committee of board chairs and presidents, has identified what it calls "key elements of a new charter" which include asking the provincial government for increased authority for boards of governors, increased 'institutional flexibility,' and increased credentials.

Among other things, a new charter may pave the way for further deregulation of tuition rates and for the power to grant applied degrees, and give individual colleges the authority to bargain directly with their support staff and faculty unions.

Pam Derks, director of policy and research at the Association of Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology, recently met with the Board of Governors at the Welland campus.

Photo by John Robbins

In an interview with the Niagara News, Dan Patterson, president of Niagara College, said the proposed charter "has the potential to reposition the college for incredible opportunity."

During her presentation, Derks called Ontario's college system "the most efficient public sector in the province."

At present, she said, about 140,000 full-time students and more than one million part-time students are enrolled in more than 400 college-level programs across the province. Community colleges, she added, have a "physical presence" in more than 200 communities in Ontario and "do business" in 74 countries.

These numbers, said Derks, are expected to rise.

Because of the "double cohort" situation of students graduating from grades 12 and 13 simultaneously, ACAATO has estimated that over the next five years college enrolment will jump by 21 per cent.

"However," Derks told board members, "we feel that a (predicted) 21 per cent increase is probably low."

ACAATO
Association of Colleges of Applied Arts & Technology of Ontario

"ACAATO is an advocacy and marketing association of the 25 colleges of applied arts and technology in Ontario. Its mandate is to advance a strong college system for Ontario. The association represents the collective views of college boards, chairs and presidents."
— from the ACAATO Web site at **www.acaato.on.ca**

"Well put together, I enjoyed every minute of the exhibition. Excellent!" – Trevor B.

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FROM SFX ENTERTAINMENT
#08
RMS TITANIC, INC.

Niagara mourns friend and colleague

By JOHN ROBBINS
Staff Writer

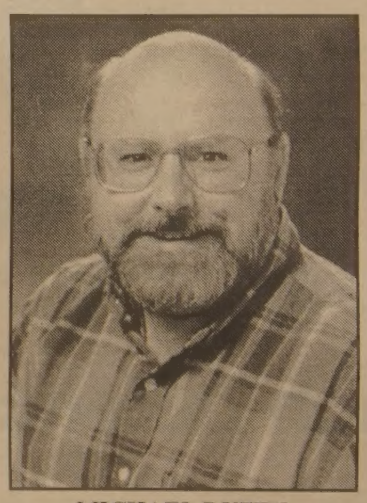
Niagara College has lost one of its own.

Michael Duffy, 53, vice-chair of Niagara College's Board of Governors and local entrepreneur, died Dec. 26 at his home in Grimsby, Ont.

"We are all very saddened by the loss of a great Niagara College supporter," said Dan Patterson, president of Niagara College.

"Over the course of six or seven years I got to know Mike very well. I've always respected him for his optimism and energy."

As a member of the Board of Governors, Duffy "contributed hundreds of hours of volunteer time to the college," he said.



MICHAEL DUFFY

In addition to the regular duties of a board member, Duffy served as a member of the college's audit review committee and as chair of the spring convocation ceremonies.

"One of the great insights Mike brought to the board was his incredible knowledge of the Niagara Region," said Patterson.

Duffy was a founding partner of Niagara Under Glass, a large greenhouse operation and tourist attraction. Before this venture, Duffy was the former head of NET Corp., the Regional Municipality of Niagara's economic development and tourism agency.

Patterson described Duffy as a "dedicated family man" and "very respectful of the opinions of others."

"He had a can-do attitude. His positive, optimistic thinking was very inspiring."

KPI's will measure college's performance

By MARTIN McQUAIG
Staff Writer

Niagara College will conduct an "important part" of its data collection on Key Performance Indicators (KPI) for the 1999/2000 year, with the Student Satisfaction Surveys being adminstrated the week of Feb. 7 to Feb. 11.

"It's very important to the college that we maintain high student satisfaction," said Darrell Neufeld, executive assistant to President Dan Patterson.

The surveys will be handed out to first-year students in their second semester at the college. It will take between 20 and 30 minutes to complete during class time and will ask students about their satisfaction with their program and services provided at the college.

The Student Satisfaction Survey is one of five components that make up the annual KPI surveys. Graduation rate, graduate satisfaction, graduate job placement, and employer satisfaction are the others.

Last year's Student Satisfaction Survey showed that 75 per cent of students surveyed were satisfied or very satisfied with the overall quality of the learning experiences in their programs.

"We've made a number of improvements in the last year in response to these results," said Neufeld.

"We take this exercise extremely seriously," he added, saying the college hopes to do as well or better this year.

The confidential survey (students are not required to put their names on the surveys), will be conducted the same week at all 25 colleges of applied arts and technology in Ontario. Results of the KPI have some influence on annual government funding.

EDITORIAL

The Niagara News is a practical lab for the Journalism-Print program, covering the college community and other areas of interest.
Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the management of the Niagara News or the administration of
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2000 celebrations, milestone in history

The millennium is here. The dreaded New Year's Eve was a success, and the entire world didn't shut down.

The millions of dollars spent in Y2K preparations went to waste. All the inventions on how to survive the millennium, the new ideas of how not to let Y2K affect you, and the back-up supplies bought in case of Y2K problems went unused.

The terrible Y2K scare was exactly that — a scare. The dawn of the new millennium brought no changes in the world's major computer systems. No glitches were found in telephone lines or hydro wires. Everything was fine.

Scientists all over the world took pride in the fact that nothing went wrong. They think what they did to the computers worked. Citizens of every country worldwide waited in anticipation for things to break, blow up or disintegrate, but nothing happened.

With all the talk of the potental Y2K problems, or worse, the world ending, most people forgot what we were really celebrating.

All the hype and all the worries seemed to distract people from the fact that we were witnessing the new millennium.

Bringing in 2000 isn't like bringing in any other year. We are the only ones who will witness the beginning of a new millennium for almost a thousand years.

Why did most people choose to forget about the most significant New Year's celebrations in our history?

I understand that the thought of things breaking down was scary, but did anyone really think that with all we know about technology, things would get that out of hand.

Even if things broke, or even if all the computers in the world shut down, I don't think the problems would have been even remotely permanent.

I am very thankful the New Year's celebrations went off successfully. Counting down to the year 2000 should have been important because of being part of the new millennium. It should have been a *big deal to people because of spending the* turn of a millennium with friends and family, not because of Y2K.

New Year's 2000 won't be remembered for Y2K problems and the world ending, as some thought it would be. With things working the same as they did last year, it will be remembered for the parties, the fun and the excitement. It will be remembered for what it should be — the dawn of a new millennium.

You and I watched the world hit the year 2000, something that will be marked in history for years to come, something we will never witness again.

To me, that should have been what all the hype was about.

Feds launch defence for next Quebec referendum

After years of fighting, frustration, and fear, Ottawa has finally acted in preparation for Quebec's next referendum vote.

By going to the Supreme Court of Canada and thus creating Bill-C20, the federal government has finally put together a plan to defend the unity of the country.

Separatists have been in control of the sovereignty game for too long. Up until now, they have dictated the timing and wording of the referendum question. Although they have been unsuccessful, they continue to hold the threat of separation over the heads of all Canadians. Lucien Bouchard, Quebec Premier, has said a new vote will be declared when the Parti Quebecois has the "winning conditions." In other words, not only have the separatists dictated the rules of the game so far, they also get to keep playing until they win.

Although Joseph Facal, Quebec's intergovernmental affairs minister, said the federal action was "inspired by a Soviet-style law," this is hardly the case. The government went to the Supreme Court before it acted, asking vital questions on how it could proceed regarding separation. It then took the court's decision and developed the new bill. Does that sound like something the Russian government would do?

Quebec — as well as every other province — does have the right to separate, but the voters must be well informed of what the future would entail if such a referendum led to separation. This country was founded on democracy. We do not have the right to force anybody to stay, but we do have the obligation to protect those within the province who want to remain within Canada and to ensure their leaders do not manipulate their voters.

Sam Bayly

Your voice or opinion is welcome in our Letters to the Editor section. Our policy regarding letter submissions is this: All letters must be received on the Friday one week prior to publication. Each letter must include the writer's name, college identification number and program of study. All letters must be signed and include a day and evening telephone number for verification use only. All letters can be mailed or brought to the Niagara News newsroom, Room S212, Simcoe building, Welland campus.

VIEWPOINTS

Materialism permeates holiday cheer

By PAUL MOONEY
Staff Writer

I associate the Christmas holidays with joy and cheer.

Unfortunately, the festive season is a time of suffering and sadness for many. For the majority of us, the anticipation of gifts and family visits is more than enough excitement to keep us happy and feeling fulfilled.

After being back at school for a couple of days, it's appalling to hear some individual's descriptions of their Christmas holidays.

Conversations consist of comments like "I couldn't stand being in the same house as my parents" and "I didn't get much for Christmas." Superficial complaints seem to be the topic of holiday reminiscences.

This new year my resolution was to remain in a positive mind frame for the duration of the holidays. I tried to forget about things I didn't have or the annoyances associated with returning to a household with rules.

In a society where our basic needs are being met regularly, it's easy to forget to "take time and smell the roses." Appreciation is lost. Materialism and trivialness seem to be consuming our time and energy. Christmas serves as the perfect example. Even at times in which we are supposed to be enjoying ourselves, for some unknown reason many can't bring themselves to do so.

Why is it that so many people lump themselves into the category of "unhappy?" Is it because we've been socialized to identify happiness with things that are not immediately attainable? The "now" often feels like a steppingstone to something greater, robbing us of the enjoyment of the experiences we currently are having.

At 21, I find myself lost in the memories of Christmas past. I lay in bed Christmas Eve, remembering what it was like to stay up all night talking with my sister about what we hoped we would find under the tree the next day. Rehashing such thoughts and reliving feelings of my childhood, the age of innocence when things are simple and clear, gave me a sense of contentment.

The least complicated years in life are at the beginning, when ignorance is bliss. In the "now" we know that we must compete and strive on a regular basis. It is a game that is very trying.

Let's consider those who don't have to worry about all the things they need to achieve and sustain happiness, the people of the world whose daily goal is mere survival. This reality is not appreciated by us, the participants in the "rat race."

I have a new resolution: I want to live with constant reminders of what is out there, all the unpleasantness of the world that I will probably never have to endure.

At present I'm trying to implement this idea into everyday activities. I find the best way thus far to remain optimistic is to listen to conversations, primarily ones where people are describing the frivolous hardships of their lives.

College life touches in ways that last forever

By SHANNON PALOMAKI
Staff Writer

As Green Day says, "Another turning point, a fork stuck in the road . . ."

The second semester's beginning has left me with a "fork stuck in the road" regarding the person with whom I will spend the next four months of my college days sharing the bathroom.

After a year and a half of sharing it with my one roommate, and six months with two others, I have decided to leave, because I couldn't refuse a "too good to be true" offer to live with another longtime friend.

Three days before I left, Caroline Grech, my roommate of over a year, and I decided to go out for dinner. As we sat around laughing we began to talk about the days of mousse fights, the pranks on our neighbours, the exchanges of clothing and, of course, the parties.

Suddenly, she started to get tears in her eyes and said, "Oh, my god. We're doing the 'remember whens'," and she started to cry.

I was stunned and that's when it hit me. The people we meet throughout our college life actually do touch us in a way that will last forever.

A while back, in a a column I wrote on roommates, I said how great everything was and how other people would say that it was only the first month. Well, I can't say that anything has changed and all four of us are as good friends today as when we first met.

I would like to say thank you to Caroline, Sean Sullivan and Vicki Berthelsen for their honesty, patience and trust.

As for the few remaining months of school and any endeavours you may have in the future, I hope you have "the time of your life."

Graduation, scary reality

By SHANNON MASTALER
Staff Writer

For many students, second semester brings a lot of changes.

Graduation, job possibilities and co-op placements are among the many stressful things students are encouraged to think about.

For those who are graduating, the thought of the future is no longer just a thought. It is a very scary reality.

No more school means it's time to find a job and to start a new life. It means it's time to take the skills we've learned, the knowledge we've gained and the experiences we've had and put them to use and put them to the test. We must now think about what we will do when May comes. We must find a job in the field we have just spent thousands of dollars learning about.

This is a frightening thought for many, but it is also something that can be very exciting.

For most of us, there will be no more living at home with our parents. After this we are on our own. We will pay for everything ourselves and deal with everything without the guidance of really anyone.

If in May, you decide to get a job and move out, these next few months are the last of your childhood.

For me, it is the beginning of my life, the beginning of what I really want to do and what I really want to be.

I hope you all see this as an exciting experience and look forward to it because this is the time when everything finally comes together, the time when we have a chance to do what we really want to.

Internet shopping

By JENNIFER MAGO
Staff Writer

Watching television news recently I saw a report about a thief who niftily stole 300,000 credit card numbers from an Internet shopping site.

The on-air announcers discussed how this could be avoided. They suggested having a credit limit of $500 or looking for lock icons on the sites.

Wouldn't shopping at a mall be the best way to avoid this? The more years pass, the more things are done over the Net. People are either too busy or just too lazy.

Those who are busy should view shopping for a present at a mall as a means to relax and take things more slowly.

People who are just too lazy should look at it as a way to get some exercise. The malls may be congested with other shoppers and the lines may be long, but it's more difficult to be robbed.

For those of you using the Net as a way of life, I advise you to take all precautions before giving out vital information.

Letters to the Editor

To Mark Tayti, Editor of the Pelham News:

Dear Mark:

Thanks very much for dropping off the December issues of the Pelham News, which I thoroughly enjoyed. It's great to see our students and graduates contributing to your paper in such a mutually benefiting way. Ours is a model parthership for which the college and our journalism students in particular are most grateful. May I take this opportunity to wish you a safe and happy holiday season and continued success in 2000.

Sincerely,
Daniel J. Patterson
President
Niagara College

WINE & DINE

Keeping it cozy at local restaurant

Sip on regional wines while angel lights flicker

By SAM BAYLY
Staff Writer

Beat those winter blahs by treating yourself with a relaxing evening out.

In Piazza, located inside Niagara Suites in Thorold, provides its guests with a "quiet, quaint, elegant evening out," says Glen Petersen, of St. Catharines, the dining room supervisor.

The décor of the 60-seat restaurant represents the wine region of Niagara. Vines wrap around the restaurant and grapes hang from the ceiling. Two wine closets, barrels, wineglasses and wine bottles complete the theme. A mural of the sun setting over a vineyard can be seen on the wooden fence on the patio and angel lights are lit at each of the tables. Although the waiters are dressed with black pants, white shirts and ties, Petersen says the dining is on the casual side.

Jeff Roper, 25, first cook, Carlos Vidinha, 40, chef and food and beverage manager, and Glen Petersen, 34, dining room manager, are part of the In Piazza team ready to serve you.

Photo by Sam Bayly

The restaurant offers its guests a "good wine list" with "quite a few choices" of wines from around the region, he says.

Every night there is a pasta and dinner special and on Thursdays they offer prime rib. All of the specials and dinners are served with rolls and a choice of soup or salad. Petersen adds, "The soups are excellent."

The Make Your Own Pasta Night offered on Fridays and Saturdays is "very popular," says Carlos Vidinha, of Thorold, the chef and food and beverage manager. Guests start their creation by selecting from a variety of ingredients from the pasta bar, which includes meats, seafood and vegetables. Once they've selected the type of noodle and kind of sauce to be mixed in, they hand over their plate to the dining room cook who prepares their meal over a flaming stove. For $10.95, diners can eat as much as they like. The meal also includes a garden or caesar salad, says Vidinha. "A lot of people come in just for that."

From the menu, Vidinha, who has been the chef at the restaurant for almost five years, says he recommends his spiced gulf shrimp dinner and chicken Florentine. The former is sautéed shrimp and Asian vegetables served over Oriental noodles. The Florentine is a grilled chicken breast stuffed with spinach, sun-dried tomatoes and ricotta cheese and is served with oyster mushrooms.

In the works are the restaurant's annual Valentine's Day specials, which will run from Friday, Feb. 12, to Sunday, Feb. 14.

The restaurant, at 3530 Schmon Pkwy., does take reservations, says Petersen, but they aren't necessary at this time of year. Dinner starts at 5 p.m. and ends at 11 p.m.

Gala event serves up taste of Niagara icewine

By MARY KOTSOPOULOS
Staff Writer

The Millennium Icewine Evening was an event you shouldn't have missed.

I had the chance to experience one of Canada's premier wine-tasting event at the Skyline Foxhead Hotel in Niagara Falls on Jan. 14.

The Niagara Grape and Wine Festival, with its sponsor Xerox Canada, presented the Millennium Xerox Images of Winter Icewine Evening to display Ontario's wineries.

This elegant evening featured wines from Ontario with a tasting of Canada's most celebrated product, Ontario icewine.

Winemakers were there to discuss their creations.

The winemakers were there to discuss their creation while guests enjoyed the specialty hors d'oeuvres, such as venison teriyaki and pheasant, and the dessert classics in the Penthouse Dining Room.

A new Niagara product featured during the evening was Beyond Icewine, created by St. Catharines resident Mina Kotsopoulos.

Kotsopoulos, along with her two partners, Barbara Ginsberg and Christine McGaw, has a new company called Pago, a Greek word for ice. Pago makes dessert products such as oranges, grapes and squash sweetened with a touch of icewine.

Mina Kotsopoulos with Hank Pellerin, executive chef at the Skyline Foxhead Hotel, prepared desserts at the Millennium Icewine Evening held at the hotel.

Photo by Mary Kotsopoulos

The three partners, along with two chefs from the Skyline Foxhead Hotel and me, were at a dessert stand to promote their new creation, Beyond Icewine.

We served the dessert with ice cream or crepes, whichever the guest preferred. I eat the grapes alone or with crepes. Whatever your stomach desires, this dessert is a must for everyone.

I was invited to help the team, Pago serve guests and to hand out business cards.

This dessert is a must for everyone.

I enjoyed the seafood buffet, magnificent fruit, and icewine. For dessert, I had ice cream with Beyond Icewine oranges and grapes.

This evening was the best night I ever had. The featured product, Beyond Icewine, was the best dessert I had ever tried.

For information on Beyond Icewine, call Pago Inc., at (905) 934-6200.

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Y2K RETROSPECTIVE

Looking back on our country's history

BY SHANNON PALOMAKI
Staff Writer

Welcome to the millennium!

How many people are surprised to be here, standing in front of their basement shelves wondering what they're going to do with the enormous amounts of bottled water and non-perishable food products? Or are you still tending to that terrible hangover?

Throughout the world, New Year's Eve 2000 was celebrated in various ways. The new year is a time not only to look into the future but to reflect on historical events that have given us, as Canadians, a unique heritage.

Beginning in AD 1000 the Vikings, led by Leif Ericsson, set sail from Iceland in search of food and adventure, reaching Newfoundland and Labrador where they established a coastal settlement and were the first visitors to Canada.

Between 1534 and 1535, discovering the Gulf of the St. Lawrence on his venture to North America, Jacques Cartier encountered the Iroquois people. The word "Canada" in Iroquois meant "the village," but Cartier thought it was the name of the whole country and "Canada" was put on the map.

In 1867, the British North America Act was passed. A plan developed to form the Dominion of Canada by delegates from Ontario, Nova Scotia, Quebec and New Brunswick. Sir John A. Macdonald became the first prime minister and those delegates are known as the "Fathers of Confederation."

In Craigellachie, B.C., the Dominion of Canada was united; the "last spike" was driven into the ground, completing the Canadian Pacific Railway on Nov. 7, 1885. This rail line extended from the Atlantic to the Pacific oceans.

The biggest gold rush in history was in 1896 as gold was discovered in the Klondike River. From 1959 to 1962, stretching from St. John's, Nfld., to Victoria, B.C., the Trans Canada Highway was completed.

The new Canadian flag was unveiled with its red maple leaf in 1965. Two years later a giant exposition in Montreal, Que., celebrated Canada's 100th birthday.

Space history was made for Canada in 1983 when the Canadarm was developed. It has been used on all U.S. space shuttle missions since.

To create a self-governing land for the Inuit in 1999, the Northwest Territories was divided, encompassing one-fifth of Canada's land mass, was dvided. This new territory was named Nunavut.

Canada is not only rich in land and resources, but has been touched by many cultures as well.

In 1793, John Graves Simcoe was the lieutenant governor of Upper Canada and founder of Toronto.

After walking 30 kilometres in the War of 1812 and crossing enemy lines, Laura Secord warned Colonel James FitzGibbon after she overheard a plan of attack by American troops. As a result, the Americans were ambushed and surrendered to FitzGibbon two days later.

The first woman doctor in Canada, Emily Stowe, began to practice medicine in Toronto in 1867.

The Northwest Mounted Police was formed in 1873 to keep law and order in colonial Canada. That organization is today known as the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP).

From Brantford to Paris, Ont., Alexander Graham Bell made the world's first long distance phone call in 1876.

In 1893, Governor General of Canada Lord Stanley donated the Stanley Cup as a hockey trophy.

In 1921, the first election in which women had the right to vote, Agnes Macphail, of Owen Sound, was the first woman elected to the House of Commons.

In raising funds for cancer research, Terry Fox began his cross-country Marathon of Hope in 1980.

Looking around the Canadian map, you will see the Inuit in the north, the Iroquois and Huron in the south, the Haida and Dene in the west and the Micmac in the east, each culture with its own leaders, heroes and legends.

It's not hard to realize we have many reasons to be proud of where we live. Canada, our country, our home.

Civilization survives Y2K

By MATT HOLLEY
Staff Writer

By now it is apparent the world is not ending. Not one plane fell out of the sky and there were no terrorist attacks.

The threat of Y2K computer malfunctions had governments around the world scrambling to find a cure for this techno-plague that loomed on the horizon. I laughed. It was the most ridiculous thing I had heard since Homer Simpson claimed Haley's Comet smashed into the moon.

Have we become so dependent on basic technology that if a cash register won't work we don't know how to add with a pencil and paper?

I believe most Y2K horror stories, in the beginning, were fed to the media by the big banks of the world. They saw an opportunity to hit the government up for some cash to overhaul the computers and replace the existing "non-compliant" software with software that is "Y2K-compliant."

Once the media had the story it is blatantly obvious the way they went. The media, whether it was print or television or web, reached people all over the globe and planted the seeds of Y2K horror.

When it became clear most of the world had smartened up and realized the power going off for even a couple of days wasn't really that bad, the media descended upon the arrest of an Algerian man charged with bringing bomb-making supplies into the United States.

I haven't any idea why the media, or for that matter any organization, would want to instill fear into the populace on the date of one of the most memorable nights the world has seen.

But we survived. Civilization as we know it did not come to a grinding halt, and most of us entered the 21st century feeling as safe as we felt in the 20th century — as safe as we perceived it.

New millennium a time to appreciate those we love

By JENNIFER ATANAS
Staff Writer

A millennium is defined as a period of 1,000 years, especially that of Christ's reign in person on earth as defined in the Reader's Digest Oxford Complete Wordfinder. People have many different interpretations of the meaning.

Some people believe it is the end; others believe it is the start.

Since we have just begun a new millennium, what better time to resolve things in our lives. Before the clocks struck midnight, people were giving up horrible habits or promising themselves better health in the New Year.

I didn't make any resolutions that night, but I was overcome with emotion when I realized, "oh god, we made it!" It was great.

I didn't dwell on all the dreadful predictions or the myths. For a moment I reflected on only the people whom I loved and wanted close but who weren't there with me.

More than anything I contemplated the importance of these people in my life. It became clear to me how trivial arguments and disagreements were, and I would fight with everything I had to make certain rough waters became calm.

I resolve to understand, forgive and appreciate friends, family and foes.

This sounds too deep, but my millennium resolution is to celebrate the ones I love, especially those for whom I must work the hardest.

I resolve to understand, forgive and appreciate friends, family and foes. It's rewarding. Make your resolution. It's not too late.

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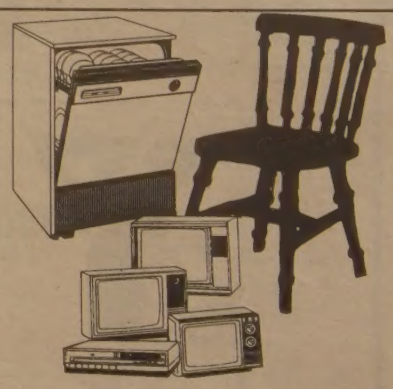

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CAMPUS COVERAGE

Bells will be ringing, vows exchanged

When the time comes for more than 200 couples to say 'I do' on Feb. 14, Niagara College's BRTF students will be there.

By JENNIFER ATANAS
Staff Writer

Third-year Broadcasting — Radio, Television and Film (BRTF) students will be capturing the essence of Valentine's Day through a five-camera shoot and a documentary on the weddings taking place on Feb. 14 at Niagara Falls, Ont.

> *'It is an interesting endeavour.'*
> *— Holly Nichols*

The twp projects are being produced for the Festival of Lights. Betty Colaneri, event co-ordinator, said more than 200 couples will be getting married with a number renewing their nuptial vows.

The ceremonies will be held at the Oakes Garden Theatre from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. with a fireworks display concluding the evening.

Colaneri said the BRTF students contacted her to express their interest in covering the event.

As a great deal of planning and preparation is required, Niagara College faculty Greg Darling, Bill Boehlen and the students have planned a meeting with Colaneri next week to discuss their plans, said Boehlen.

"It is an interesting endeavour," said third-year student Holly Nichols, producer of the documentary. "We are all looking forward to the event. We will try to make sure it won't be like a wedding channel program."

> *'It is the first of its kind at Niagara College.'*
> *— Holly Nichols*

Nichols added, "It is the first of its kind at Niagara College."

$10,000 donated for scholarship

By SHANNON MASTALER
Staff Writer

Good grades do pay off.

At least they do for Niagara College student Karen Saxby, 28, of Niagara Falls, who received a $750 Mary and Joseph Gollata Scholarship for her efforts in the Hotel and Restaurant Management program.

> *Saxby 'definitely exhibited these qualities . . . not only academically . . . but personally.'*
> *— Dave Berry*

The Mary and Joseph Gollata Scholarship started when the Golatta's wrote a letter to the college informing them that they have been in the industry for 35 years. They wanted to give a scholarship to support someone graduating from the Hotel and Restaurant Management program, and going into the Hotel Management Systems post-graduate program.

The Gollata's gave $10,000 to support the scholarship, that's $750 annually to a student.

In order to be selected for the scholarship, Saxby had to meet special criteria. She had to have an academic average of at least 75 per cent coming into the Hotel Management Systems program, she had to demonstrate leadership qualities, she could not have already received any other awards or scholarships, and she had to have graduated from the Hotel and Restaurant Management program.

> *'The scholarship is a tremendous asset to the program.'*
> *— Dave Berry*

Dave Berry, co-ordinator of post-graduate studies, said Saxby "definitely exhibited these qualities . . . not only academically here, but personally in every endeavour she's encountered."

"She has demonstrated these qualities in all aspects," said Berry. "The scholarship is a tremendous asset to the program."

Lack of interest, time causes delay for Winterfest

By MIRANDA HUBBS
Staff Writer

W2K (Winterfest 2000) at Niagara College has been postponed until next week.

The activities now start Monday, Jan. 24, and continues until Friday.

The reason for the delay was "the lack of interest and time," says Ryan McLaughlin, a member of the Student Administrative Council.

"Because of the short notice, we didn't have enough teams so we decided to wait. In the past few days more teams have joined so now we have enough people."

A week of fun activities has been planned.

On Monday, there will be a milk chugging contest and a lifesaver's relay.

On Tuesday, there will be a scavenger hunt and Jell-O-sucking contest.

On Wednesday, students will be able to show off their stage talent in an air-band contest.

On Thursday, an outdoor volleyball tournament will take place no matter the weather. Students are advised to dress appropriately.

On Friday, the awarding of prizes will take place to wrap up Winterfest 2000. Times of activities differ, but they will take place at After Hours at the Welland campus.

In past years, turnout for Winterfest "hasn't always been good," says McLaughlin. "We hope that because of the delay more interest is generated so more people will come out."

Those not participating are encouraged to cheer on their fellow students.

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ACHOO!

Remedies available for flu season

Taking medication along with getting plenty of rest and drinking plenty of fluids can help

By MANDI SPEELMAN
Staff Writer

'Tis the season to catch the flu.

Runny nose, sore throat and aching joints are all part of the virus influenza that affects the northern hemisphere from November to April every year.

Karen Chudzik, of St. Catharines, manager of the infectious disease program at the Regional Niagara Public Health department, says symptoms of influenza usually have sudden onset. These symptoms are fever and upper respiratory symptoms such as runny nose, eyes, sore throat and pneumonia.

There are two types of viruses that cause influenza: influenza A and influenza B.

"Influenza A is the stronger of the two types. This is the one where we see deaths and secondary infections such as pneumonia. While influenza B can make you sick, it does not make you as ill and we don't see as many deaths associated with B.

"Our emergencies are full, our ambulances are full, we have multiple breakouts in long-term care facilities and we all know friends that have been sick if we haven't already been sick ourselves. After the flu you can get fatigue that can last up to six weeks."

People of all ages can get influenza, she says.

"When the Ministry of Health is looking at the issues around influenza, they're looking at who are the people who suffer the deaths, the secondary illnesses and the hospitalization," says Chudzik.

The "very" young and the "very" old are "most" susceptible, along with people with chronic illnesses and impaired immune systems. People with chronic chest problems and those who are diabetic are at risk of the secondary illnesses and potential deaths involved with influenza.

For years, taking Tylenol and Aspirin just temporarily relieved the pain and symptoms from the virus. They contain the ingredient acetylsalicylic acid (ASA), which relieves fever and minor pains. In the book Understanding Canadian Non-prescription Drugs: A Guide to Safe Use, it says ASA can be a hazard for children, as it may cause Reyes syndrome and may cause rotting of the stomach lining.

"If you took pills that were coated, it takes longer to release, so it bypasses the stomach and releases in the intestines, which has a stronger lining," says April Waite, 19, of Caistorville, Ont., who studies in the one-year Pharmacy Assistant program at Mohawk College in Hamilton.

Waite says people shouldn't take ASA if they have allergic stomach ulcers, kidney and liver diseases and blood-clotting disorders.

Chudzik says, "Prior to this year we treated symptomatically, so if you had a headache and fever you took Tylenol, you forced fluid and you rested in bed.

'Our emergencies are full, our ambulances are full, we have multiple breakouts in long-term care facilities and we all know friends that have been sick if we haven't already been sick ourselves . . .'
— Karen Chudzik

There are two drugs now on the market — one is called Tamiflu and the other Relenza."

Relenza is taken by inhaling a mist being released from a pill that is inserted in a little hole of the inhaler. It has to be taken within 48 hours of the symptoms and it only lessens the symptoms and duration of the flu.

"There has been a drug on the market for about 10 years called Amantadine. It has been used in long-term care facilities when outbreaks occur; it stops the replication. Relenza and Tamiflu have fewer side effects." She says in order for a virus to replicate, it needs to be able to go some place else and keep replicating itself, and that is how the illness gets passed to others. By stopping the virus's ability to replicate, you stop the virus.

Asked why we get the flu around this time of year, Chudzik says, "It has something to do with our environment and our temperature. If you were down in the Caribbean, they have the flu 12 months out of the year.

"If someone coughs, or they touch something without washing their hands and someone comes along and touches that same spot, then you are easily spreading it that way. You may be the healthiest person and it still doesn't give you a 100 per cent chance of not getting it."

The best protection from influenza is the vaccine. It protects older people and people with chronic illnesses by about "30 per cent and 70 per cent" protection for people with intact immune systems such as health care workers, she says.

"The big advantage of the vaccine is the reduction in the number of hospitalizations, secondary illnesses and death," she says.

The Ministry of Health is expanding the number of people who can get free flu vaccinations. Besides older people and people with chronic illnesses, those who get it done for free are employees who work in long-term care facilities, employees who work at hospitals, emergency service workers and workers at nursing services in the community. If you do not meet these criteria for free vaccination, you can pay to get it done. The price varies depending on where you go.

"It's about $12 to $15 to be immunized against influenza."

Karen Chudzik, manager of the infectious disease program at the Regional Niagara Health department in St. Catharines, holds a replica of the new flu drug Relenza and the box it comes in.
Photo by Mandi Speelman

'I have students who come in with flu and they still come to school because they had an exam . . . They should be at home. Don't bring your germs in here.'
— Carolyn Hurst

The vaccine was being given out at the college "up to the end of November" but because of the cost, this was stopped after November, says Carolyn Hurst, registered nurse at the Welland campus of Niagara College.

The vaccine consists of three specific viral types of influenza and is only good up to a year. "With over 100 influenza viruses, the vaccine is always changing."

At the time the vaccine was being given out at the college, it cost students $5, and $10 for faculty.

Hurst says she found there were "more people getting sick this year, more so than the past."

"I have students who come in with flu and they still come to school because they had an exam to do or something. They should be at home. Don't bring your germs in here."

Chudzik suggests that if people do have the flu they should "get plenty of rest, eat well, wash their hands and stay home."

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University of Toronto, St. Vladimir's Institute
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Cold Snap

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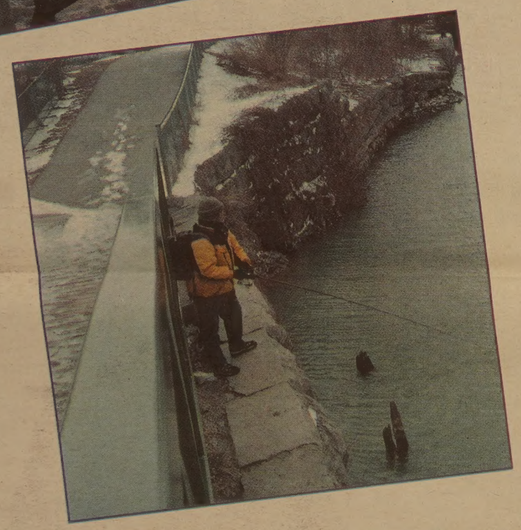
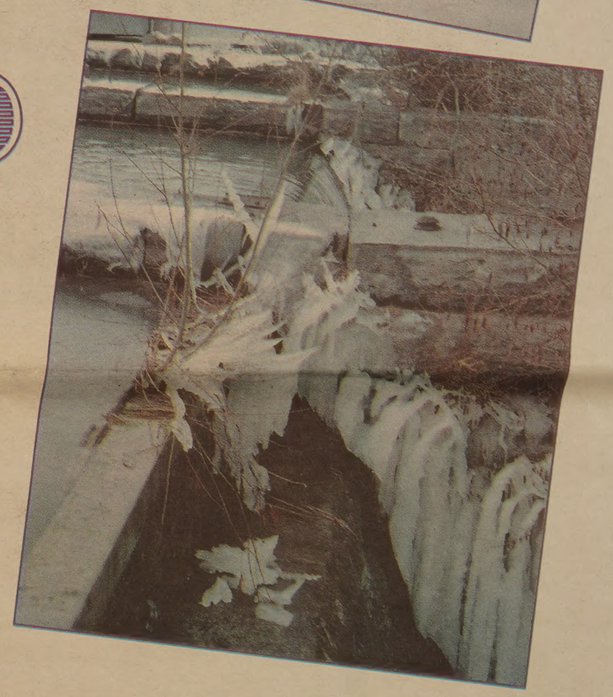




DREAM COME TRUE

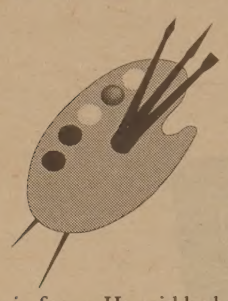
L.A. art student strives to reach goals

By TRACEY ALLISON
Staff Writer

He is on his way.

Lee Clarke, 27, of Redondo Beach, Calif., said he has been involved in art and music since he was young. Creating is what, he said, "passions" him the most in life.

"I love to make stuff, whether it's paintings, sculpture, poems or songs. Finding stuff that wasn't there before is why I do what I do."



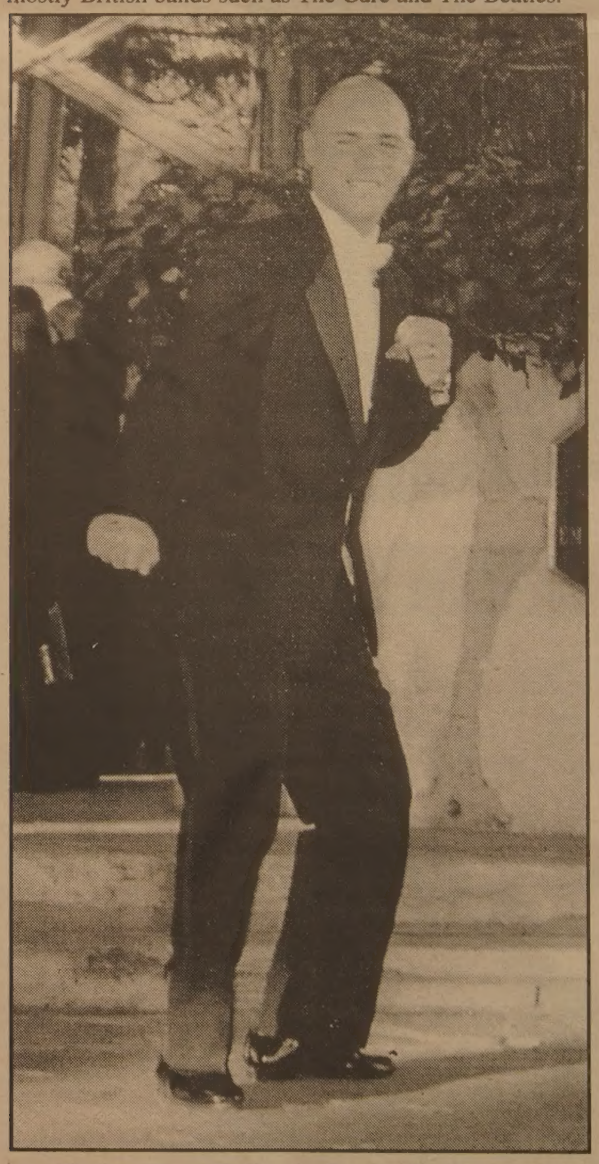
Clarke, born in London, Ont., lived in Canada for most of his life until recently moving to California.

"Los Angeles is a great place to be for art right now," he said. He attends Otis College of Art and Design where he's in his third year of Fine Arts, majoring in painting.

Art wasn't always Clarke's main focus. He said he has been involved in music for most of his life. He said he was a child when his "dad planted the music seed in my head."

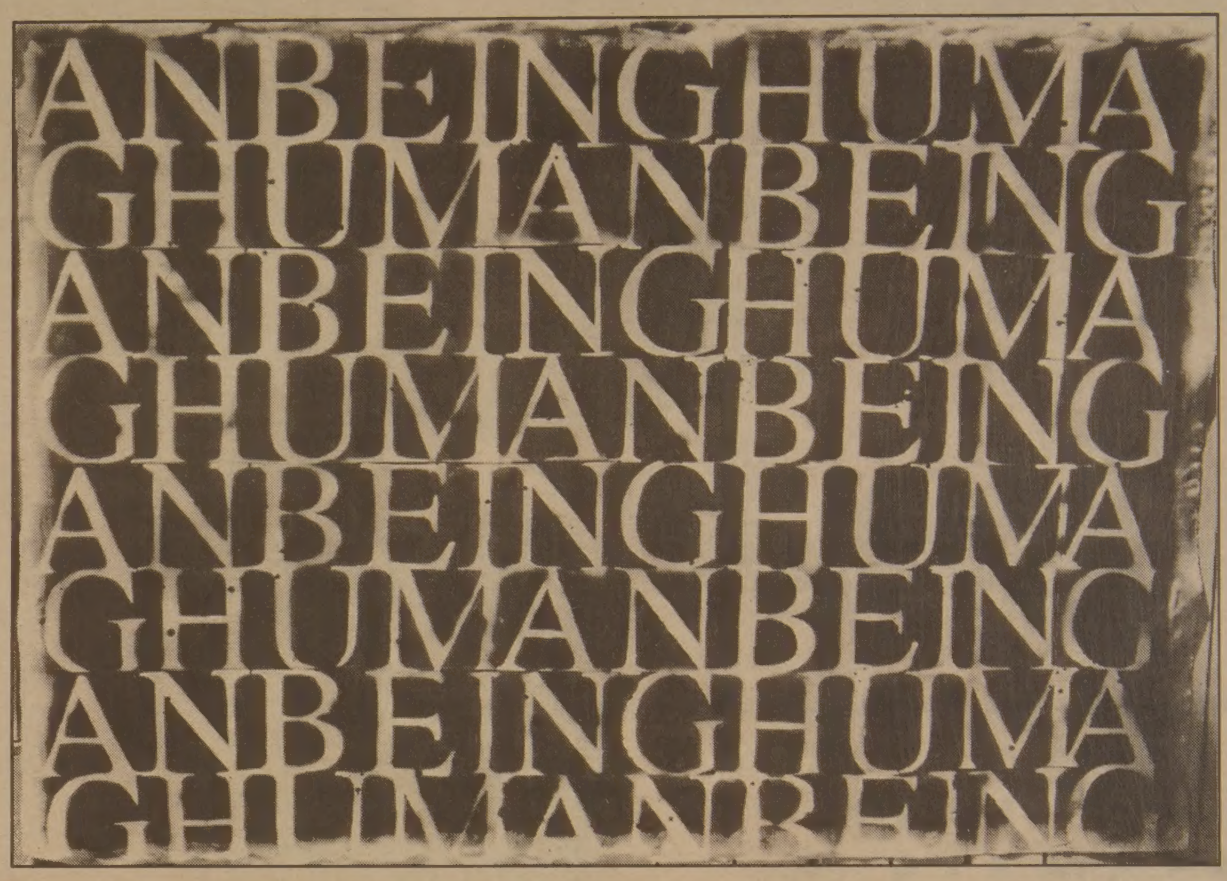
He started with piano lessons from his grandmother and eventually became involved in different bands. He started creating music in high school. He describes his first band as "a mini-Depeche Mode or Pet Shop Boys," both of which were big influences at the time.

Following a move to British Columbia, he continued in music by joining a new band, playing several gigs and recording a demo tape in a studio. The members were into mostly British bands such as The Cure and The Beatles.



Lee Clarke, 27, of Redondo Beach, Calif., is working hard in his third year of Fine Arts at Otis College of Art and Design. He plans to pursue a career in art.

Photo by Tracey Allison



Being Human/Human Being by Lee Clarke is a 58 inch x 78 inch enamel on canvas painting done in 1999. This is just one of the many paintings Clarke has done and exhibited at his art show.

Submitted photo

"There truly is no other experience like making original music with people. It nourishes and excites my soul." The connection with others, he said, is amazing. "It's like pulling gifts out of thin air, that someone or something has given you."

He really misses music and says he tried starting something when he first moved to Los Angeles, but it never worked out. "Then art began to take over my time."

Art has always had Clarke's interest. "I drew a lot as a kid and did lots of crafts." Making things always seemed fun, so he continued as he grew up. He said one day he helped paint an old friend's dresser, and he's been painting ever since.

"I decided to study art and pursue a career in it for many different reasons: I could be my own boss, I could make a mess, learn about other cool people from history and reading, and studying people of the past gave me more and more ideas for making stuff."

Clarke's works have been exhibited in galleries every year as, he said, he tries to make the most of his time in school. He has a show coming up featuring paintings he's done over the past year. The show "investigates visual perception — how we see things, what we see, what catches our eye."

He said his school really makes him think and work in different ways.

"Your first year is like boot camp. You have no say in what you can make. It's all about breaking down your bad habits to build you up and get you to understand the basics."

He said the school is great. "We have an amazing faculty of working professional artists and teachers. The talent level is high here and very inspiring."

Last year Clarke was given a scholarship to study in rural France for a month. "France was an exciting and amazing opportunity," where he said he learned a lot from the experience.

Some of Clarke's influences are the Italian Mannerist painters like Bronzino and Pontormo, as well as Caravaggio and Bacon. The Symbolists, such as Odilon Redon, and Contemporaries, such as Gerhard Richter and Ross Bleckner, he said, are some of his favourites.

In the future Clarke said his goal is to be able to make art for a living and "to keep it new and fresh for me."

Aside from art and music, which "really take up most of my time," he said, he loves to cook, read, learn to surf and spend time with his wife, Abbie.

Clarke met Abbie at his best friend's wedding in North Carolina. The couple married last summer in Los Angeles. She works as an editor for the syndicated television show Extra, which, he said, is "exciting, but time consuming." Clarke said they are "learning life together." One of his goals is to one day have children and "raise them right — by that I mean spend lots of time with them."

Clarke said he is most proud of his marriage, his friends and trying to be a good role model for his brother and sisters, "so they can avoid the mistakes and hard stuff I have gone through." He said his greatest accomplishment is "just trying to stay sane and focused in this world that seems to want to pull us in so many different ways that aren't always good for us." Getting into this school as an artist, he said, is also a big accomplishment.

'I love to make stuff, whether it's paintings, sculpture, poems or songs. Finding stuff that wasn't there before is why I do what I do.'

— Lee Clarke

While he attends school, he is interning at a contemporary gallery called ACME in LA. It is hard for him to find work, he said, because of his Canadian status, but for the past three years he has worked in the visual arts department at his school.

He said he plans to exhibit and continue his schooling at a graduate level after he graduates in the summer of 2001. One day, Clarke said, he hopes to live in Canada again. "I miss the mountains and Vancouver too much to stay away forever." For now, though, he said, "For exciting interesting art, this is the place to be."

PERSONALITIES

Two grads prove dreams really do come true

By JAMIE WHITE
Staff Writer

Niagara College graduates Kevin Gibson, 23, and J.J. Booth, 25, are making their dreams come true through Electric Dreams Video Inc.

As two young video and multimedia production professionals, Gibson, of Niagara Falls, and Booth, of Stevensville, are taking their first big step towards a promising future in a competitive video and multimedia field with the opening of their own business, Electric Dreams Video Inc.

Gibson and Booth graduated from the Broadcast — Radio, Television and Film program at Niagara College. Gibson graduated in 1999 after majoring in television, and Booth in 1998, majoring in film.

Gibson worked as a volunteer for Rogers, a cable station in Niagara Falls, doing editing and camera work, then at CTV as a tape editor for the national news while completing his education. After graduation, Gibson went to work for White Lab Video in Welland, during the wedding season before the business closed.

Booth worked at Niagara College as a teacher's assistant in television production, after graduation. From there he worked at the Fort Erie Racetrack as a computer graphics operator during the racing season in 1999.

With the closing of White Lab Video at the end of December, Gibson and Booth decided it was a perfect opportunity to open their own business.

"We'd been playing with the idea for a while," says Booth.

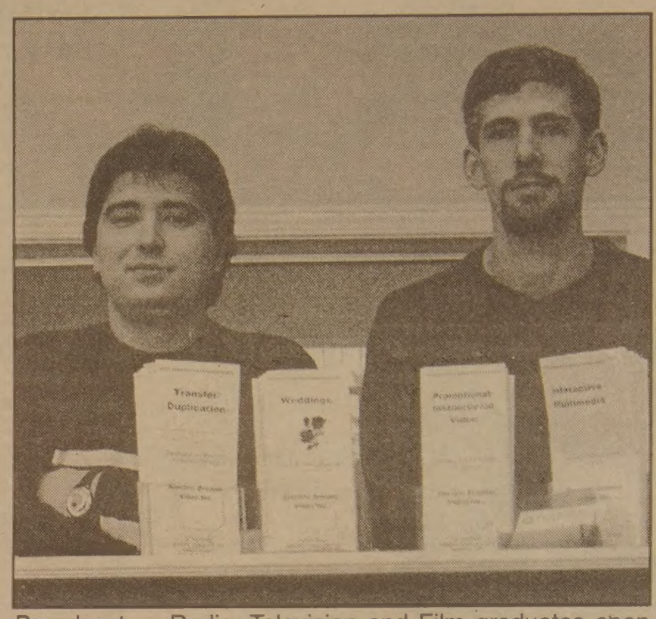
"The idea has been in planning for years," Gibson adds.

The pair began by searching for a place to have their office. They settled in an old doctor's office in the Thor-Rice Plaza in Welland.

After receiving a bank loan and contributions from private investors and personal friends, Gibson and Booth started to set up Electric Dreams Video.

Booth says they originally planned to lease White Lab Video's office but the owner decided to keep the space for himself.

"It was pretty frantic for about two days until we found this place," Booth says, referring to their new office in the Welland plaza.



Broadcast — Radio, Television and Film graduates open their own business, Electric Dreams Video Inc., located in the Thor-Rice plaza.

Photo by Jamie White

"This works out better for our budget," says Gibson.

Gibson, Booth and seven or eight of their friends and former co-workers took two weeks to move into their space and spent around $200 to paint and complete minor renovations. They were ready to open Jan. 3, the first Monday of the new year.

"We didn't think we were going to make it until the Sunday before we opened," says Booth.

"Our first customer came in at 9:30 a.m.," says Gibson.

They bought about 30 per cent of White Lab Video's equipment and bought the rest from Hills TV in Hamilton.

Electric Dreams Video is holding a grand opening on Feb. 5. with an open house from noon to 5 p.m., but the pair are unsure about what promotional activities they are going to have.

While the business is still new, Gibson and Booth say they're already doing well.

"It's coming along. We've done as well as we hoped we would," says Booth.

"It's been great for our first weeks open," says Gibson.

As for their future plans, the pair says they plan to stick with this business for at least a couple of years.

"Right now we're content with this place. It has a lot of possibilities for expansions," says Booth. "There's not a lot we won't be able to do in five or 10 years in this space."

Gibson and Booth say they enjoy their business.

"I like interacting with customers and doing the work. It's fun," says Gibson.

"I like the fact we're getting to use the kind of equipment we've only heard of or used maybe one or two times before. Now, we actually own the equipment," says Booth.

For now, the pair say they have friends who help out and work for free, like Corey Kennedy, 23, of Niagara Falls, who has been working every day since the business opened.

"Corey is invaluable to the operation so far," says Booth.

They also have a co-op student, Greg Ayotte, 18, from Notre Dame High School, who works Monday to Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. doing odd jobs and photo album videos.

Electric Dreams Video is open Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturdays from noon to 5 p.m. They offer services like complete video productions, promotional videos and instructional videos. They cover weddings and other special occasions, and they do interactive displays, custom CD ROMs, websites, video duplication, or anything else a customer may want done.

Electric Dreams Video can be found online at www.electricdreams.8m.com.

English prof keeping fresh by practicing what she teaches

By KYM CRAWFORD
Staff Writer

Some do it for the money and others because they love it.

The latter is more fitting for Eva McCarney, 43, of Welland. McCarney is an English professor at Niagara College. In addition to her teaching career, McCarney is also a widely published Canadian poet and writer. She writes under the pen name of Eva Tihanyi.

EVA McCARNEY

Born in Budapest, Hungary, she came to Canada in 1962, at the age of six.

She lived in Windsor, where she graduated from St. Clair College's three-year journalism program. McCarney later went to the University of Windsor, where she received her honours BA in English, followed by a Masters in creative writing. She moved to Toronto during the eighties.

In addition to her 21 years of teaching, McCarney remains active in her writing. "Teaching was a natural extension of this. As a child, I knew I wanted to do something with language," says McCarney. "I'm an extrovert and like being around people. Writing is a very introverted activity, so I get the best of both worlds."

Breaking into the literature business wasn't difficult, she says, because she started with journalism, so it was a "natural offshoot."

McCarney also did first-Canadian novels columns from 1995 to 1999, for Periodical Books of Canada, a Toronto-based literary periodical. Still a regular contributor to the periodical, she has, in the four years of contribution, reviewed more than 200 novels.

McCarney says she enjoys the combination of activities — journalism, teaching and writing poetry — because "it keeps me fresh as a teacher."

"It's wonderful because I feel that I use all of my skills all of the time in various ways, and I think that's fun."

McCarney says she often has people ask her why she bothers writing poetry. "There's no money in it. It's for the love of the art."

"Poetry involves a particular use of language that, if well written, can encapsulate what some take a whole novel to do. A poem is like a polished little gem."

Recently, she contributed to an anthology along with 19 female Canadian authors. The anthology, Our Grandmothers, Ourselves: A Reflection of Canadian Women, published by Raincoast Books, focuses on the relationships young women have with their grandmothers.

McCarney says one of her early major influences was Canadian author Margaret Atwood, whom she admires "tremendously."

"She represents one of those really successful, first Canadian female writers," says McCarney. "She is remarkable."

Some of McCarney's interests include reading, the arts, viticulture and just having a good time.

"I also have a 12-year-old son, so there's a lot of activity there."

If she won $1 million, she says she'd continue to do what she's doing. "I wouldn't totally give up teaching because I like that people input."

In addition, McCarney says she would possibly set up her own Canadian periodical and help publish up-and-coming writers. Laughing, she says it would, however, be from "somewhere in the Caribbean."

Interviewed at the end of last term, her plans for the millennium were to have all of her marking done so she could take a break for an evening.

McCarney says she'd like people to see her as she truly is: intelligent and creative.

"It sounds egotistical. As a writer I would like people to see me as sincere. Some people can put on an act."

As a teacher McCarney says she hopes her students can see her enthusiasm. "All these other activities keep me fresh and feed into my teaching in a really positive way."

McCarney's advice for aspiring young authors is to "have faith in your own ability. Without that faith you'll never get anywhere. There's a second part to that. Don't let rejection slips get you down, because everybody gets them."

McCarney will release a new book, her fourth poetry collection, called Restoring the Wickedness, from Thistledown Press. Author Susan Musgrave is editing the book, which that is expected to be released this spring.

CAMPUS COMMUNITY

Retirees keep ties with college

By LISA TAFT
Staff Writer

Even when they're retired, they still have Niagara College on their minds.

The Niagara College Retirees' Association met recently for lunch, as it has the second Wednesday of each month for nine years.

In 1990, Barbara Blue, Duane Orr, Mavis Monck and Donald Combe, all former college staff members, got together to discuss the idea of a retirees' association. This group of charter members had the first meeting of the association one year later, in 1991, in the Kerrio Room at the Niagara Falls campus and have been meeting there ever since.

"We've always met in the Kerrio Room. It's a beautiful setup," says Orr, the group's first president. He was part of the counselling department at the college.

The association is open to all retired employees of Niagara College and has "about 80 'paid-up' members," says Eleanor Snider, the association's newest president and former professor in the Health Records program.

They have between 50 and 60 members attending each month. Orr attributes their success to the fact that the group, which includes retired faculty, support staff and administration, is "inclusive, not exclusive."

The purpose of the association is to keep social contacts that were made while the members were at the college, to maintain communication with the life of the college and to provide financial support to students through equipment or funds.

Not only does the group meet for lunch and entertainment, but it raises money that goes back into the college. Annual membership is $12 and the members pay $11.50 a person for lunch and entertainment each month.

Retirees' Association president, Eleanor Snider (left), and members Theresa Berkhout and Elvira Lucas serve themselves lunch from the buffet set up for them in the Kerrio Room at the Maid of the Mist Centre in Niagara Falls.

Photo by Lisa Taft

In 1996, they gave $200 to the Needy Student Fund and $200 for a student bursary. The group has established a memorial fund from which the donations are directed to student scholarships. The association has contributed a total of $3,627 since 1996, including two Hewlett Packard scanners for the Learning Resource Centres in 1999.

The association provides entertainment and educational programming, at the meetings on topics such as insurance. This month members were shown a travelogue on Africa.

Snider says the association "really appreciates" coming to the Kerrio Room and being able to continue to use the college facilities.

Members park for free, can use the library and have reduced fees on the food.

Bill Walker, a former technology professor, has been coming since 1993 to meet old friends. He says he likes it because he gets to see "people I used to see once a day."

The group will meet next on Feb. 9 at 11:30 a.m.

Student wants to bring cultural comfort to Niagara College

By CASSANDRA SIMONS
Staff Writer

Students interested in sharing their beliefs or in learning about another culture may join the Muslim Students' Association (MSA) at Niagara College's Welland campus.

Wassim Yassine, a first-year Law and Security Administration program student, is the elected president of the club.

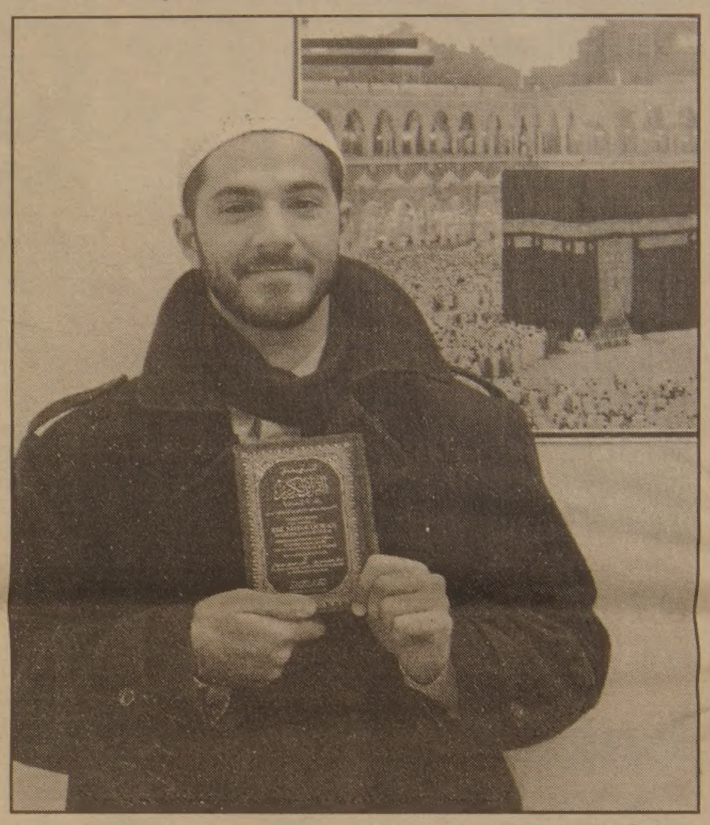
"The meetings are here to help maintain and improve the Islamic environment in a non-Muslim community," said Yassine, 24, of London.

The MSA was established before the holidays on Dec. 13. The club has 33 members, "and the numbers are increasing," said Yassine.

The association holds two different kinds of meetings. One is called the executive meeting for the "leaders," and the other is a general meeting, which is open to anyone, Muslim or non-Muslim.

Yassine said the meetings will provide a forum to discuss "more community- and unity-based issues."

Yassine explains how he decided to create a club for Muslims. "When I first came to Welland about five months ago, I felt as if I were alone. I needed to find someone who is Muslim that shared the same beliefs as I, and be able to get together with them."



Wassim Yassine, a first-year Law and Security Administration program student, stands by a picture of the Holy Mosque and the sacred Kaaba.

Photo by Cassandra Simons

Non-Muslims are allowed to come to the meetings and participate as honourary members. The meeting dates are not scheduled yet, but will be soon. A $4 fee is required to join the club by the Student Administrative Council. The meetings are held at Niagara College and will include activities as well as discussions.

"After the month of Ramadan we will be having a feast, and we encourage students to do Taraweh, special prayers from the Qur'an."

The Qur'an comprises 30 parts, one for every day of the month, and students are also encouraged to read one part daily.

Students interested in learning more about the MSA club are asked to contact Yassine at (905)714-4553.

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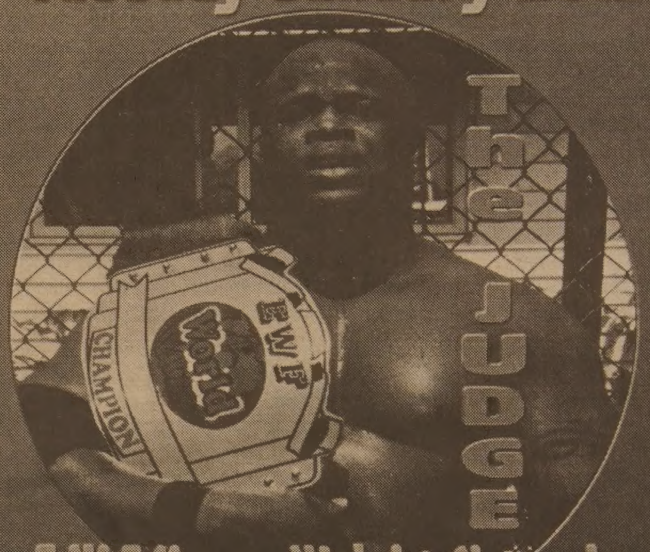

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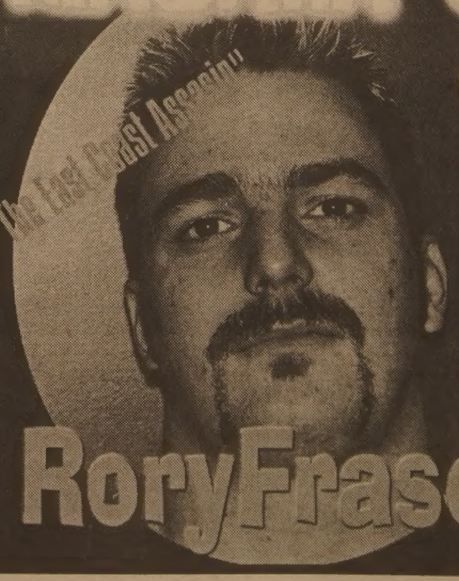
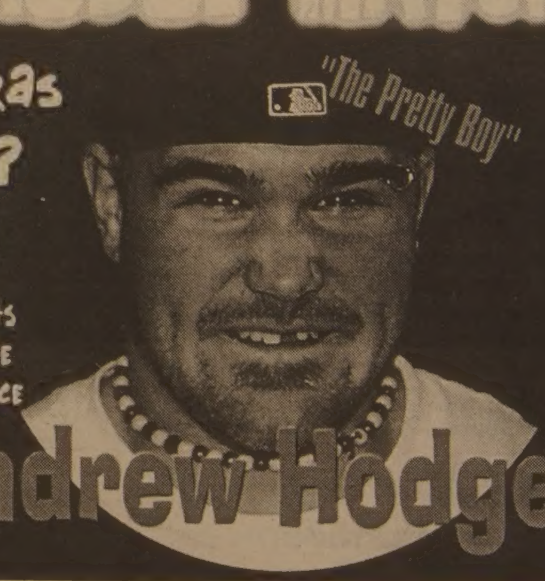


Who will be Niagaras King of the Ring?

Join us as these two Residence titans battle it out in a no holds barred match. Fraser to represent the students in residence and Hodges to represent the Management establishment of the Residence



Rory Fraser

Doors 7:30

Andrew Hodges

$3.00 for Non-Niagara Patrons

ENTERTAINMENT

Celebrating 30 years of professional arts

By SAM BAYLY
Staff Writer

If you've been searching for a little more culture, look no further.

Brock University's Centre for the Arts, in St. Catharines, in the midst of celebrating its 30th anniversary, has a little something for everyone.

The centre, "unique to the region," has "consistently offered professional performing arts," says Debbie Slade, of Thorold, the centre's managing director.

On Nov. 12, the Toronto Dance Theatre arrived with a new dance piece to commemorate both the troupe's and the centre's anniversaries.

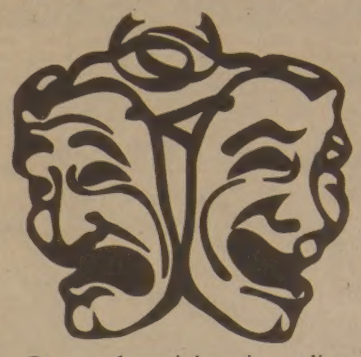
Other big-name performances this year have included singer/songwriter and environmentalist Bruce Cockburn, jazz artist and Grammy nominee Diana Krall and the Juno-Award-winning Johnny Favourite Swing Orchestra.

Although the centre, at 500 Glenridge Ave., primarily provides Canadian talent, internationally known artists are booked as well, Slade says. The Zulu dance and drumming troupe from South Africa, Vuka Uzibuse, performed at the university in October and the Celtic band from Ireland, Flook, performed in November. Acts from past years have included the Independent Jazz Reunion from New York State and the Wadaiko Ichiro, a Japanese drumming troupe.

It's always a challenge to find new and interesting artists. — Debbie Slade

She adds the centre is committed to "showcasing new and upcoming artists." It's "always a challenge to find new and interesting artists." Such performers have included Jann Arden, Sarah McLachlan and Moxy Fruvous.

The afternoon shows are primarily for children. On Halloween, humourist and musician Norman Foote made an appearance at Brock's Sean O'Sullivan Theatre. Polka Dot Door's Cindy Cook, along with her puppet friends, arrived on Dec. 12 for a Christmas sing-along.



Poets, playwrights, journalists and authors make their way to Brock's Playhouse for the Harpweaver Reading Series. The Centre of the Arts, along with the Department of Fine Arts and The Harpweaver journal, invites journalists for readings, discussions and book signings.

The Department of Music offers the Evening Concert Series, which showcases a variety of talent.

Slade adds the centre is continually looking to improve upon what it has to offer. Another Juno nominee, Amy Sky, was just added to this year's lineup and will perform on March 11.

The Centre for the Arts is a department within and funded by Brock University. It officially opened on Oct. 17, 1969, with a performance from the Toronto Workshop Productions titled Mr. Bones.

There are still many performances scheduled at the university, including CBC humourist Nils Ling, Les Ballets Jazz de Montreal, country music group Farmer's Daughter, author and journalist Knowlton Nash, and a production based on the children's books about Franklin the Turtle.

To be part of the centre's mailing list or for ticket information, contact Brock's box office at (905) 688-5550, ext. 3257 or its Web site at www.arts.brocku.ca.

Entertainers needed for Variety Nites by the Canal

Sixth season seeking various acts for annual showcase

By CASSANDRA SIMONS
Staff Writer

Entertainers are needed for Variety Nites by the Canal, said co-ordinator Claire Pym.

The Rose City Seniors Centre in Welland is hosting, for the sixth season, Variety Nites by the Canal.

The program was initiated to provide the community with some entertainment, said Pym.

The program begins on Wednesday, June 28, and continues for the next seven Wednesday nights.

"If the weather permits, we use the showmobile, a portable stage, outside of the Rose City Seniors Centre, 145 Lincoln St. If the weather doesn't permit, we go inside the centre."

Participate in the show by picking up an application form from the Welland Community Services office.

Entertainers can apply to participate in the show by picking up an application form from the *Welland Community Services* office at Rose City Seniors Centre. The deadline for applications is Feb. 25.

Admission to the events is free, Pym, said, but "we pass the hat for loonies and twoonies, and we have a marketing staff who goes around to get donations from business. In past years we've basically just broke even."

Among the past entertainers are the Niagara Regional Police Chorus, Lincoln Welland Dance *Band, Vive La Joie Dancers,* Niagara Express Band and the Rose City Seniors Tappers, although, Pym said, "We've never had the same entertainers two years in a row."

You can find more information on Variety Nites by the Canal by calling 732-7300.

New millennium means new shows

Big events scheduled for winter semester

By MARK GARRETT
Staff Writer

The Y2K bug may be gone, but the lineup of shows and events for After Hours on the Welland campus will be something to see in the new year.

Dave Rapelje, manager of After Hours, says, "We've got some interesting stuff coming up."

On Jan. 22, After Hours will be hosting a World Wrestling Federation Wrestle Mania pay-per-view party.

On Jan. 25, the Empire Wrestling Federation (EWF) will be at Niagara College. There will be at least six wrestlers from the EWF, including the Cargo Boss, Ricky Stardust, and The Judge, champion of EWF, with his manager Victoria. The event will be held in the gym in the Mackenzie building. College students will get free admission with their student card.

"I think it's gonna be huge," says Rapelje.

There will be a "grudge match" between resident student Rory "The East Coast Assassin," and Andrew "Pretty Boy" Hodges at dawn at the residence.

The annual "beach pub night" will be returning Feb. 3 to After Hours. The pub will be filled with sand to recreate a summer night on the beach for students.

The Molson Blind Date Tour is a "for sure thing," says Rapelje. Although there have been no bands named yet, the concert will be "most likely held in the gym," at the Mackenzie building.

Comedy nights are held every Wednesday with pub nights every Thursday.

Take advantage of Welland campus' Child Care Centre

Children from three months to five years af age are accepted.

For more information call 905-735-2211

Comedy night Wednesdays keeping them laughing

By MARK GARRETT
Staff Writer

The After Hours pub on the Welland campus opened its doors for a new semester of comedy on Jan. 12.

About 120 people crammed inside to savour 12 beers for $12.

The first comedian to hit the stage in the new millennium was Alan Park, a Toronto native who says "everything is to be made fun of."

The new father of a baby girl recently came back from England and saw the last eclipse of the decade and millennium. His act included impersonations of the Kennedys and comments on his hate for "big pants," which, he says, make normal people "look like a gang of midgets tearing down a circus tent." He also tried to warn Niagara College about "false advertising."

Park has recently filmed a comedy special, Animal Soup, from the Comedy Network's Comedy Now. The show aired nationally on Nov. 7, 1999.

Twenty-six-year-old Wade McElwain took the stage next to try to win his share of laughs.

His ignorance of computers got a lot of laughs from those in the smoky crowd.

"My computer is the equivalent of a Cambodian whore. It has no virus protection," says McElwain.

He related his trials and tribulations of being a student and getting a credit card. Many in the audience seemed to relate as some individuals simply shook their heads. He said the "Canadian Tire card is the life saver. Everyone needs car mats for Christmas."

McElwain has just starred in his own Comedy Now one-hour special entitled Life Goes On airing on the Comedy Network across Canada. McElwain has been in the Just for Laughs comedy festival in Montreal and has appeared on Open Mike with Mike Bullard.

"CLR does not mean 'kind of like rye,'" are words everyone in college can live by, says McElwain.

ENTERTAINMENT

Inspiring movie brings Kaufman to life

By TRACEY ALLISON
Staff Writer

Column

Andy, did you hear about this one?

I've added a new movie to my all-time favourites list. Man on the Moon, the story of the fascinating life of comedian Andy Kaufman, is the one of the best movies I've seen in a long time. Since its recent release, it hasn't been successful at the box office. It seems many people have mixed feelings about the film. Coincidentally, that's how people reacted to Kaufman too.

Lots of people don't know him. I knew his name prior to seeing the movie from hearing it in R.E.M.'s song *Man on the Moon* and from occasionally hearing my father speak of him. I consider myself a fan now. This movie prompted me to learn more about this incredibly talented man.

Since the release of the movie there has been lots of Kaufman hype. There have been biographies on television and I purchased a biography written by his friend, Bob Zmuda.

When some of my friends asked their parents who he was, they said he was the guy from the television show Taxi. Unfortunately, that's the one thing for which he didn't want to be remembered.

I admire his attitude and how he lived his life. I think he was a man who followed his heart and his desires.

I admire his attitude and how he lived his life. I think he was a man who followed his heart and his desires. He was in the comedy business to be creative and to do what he thought was funny and what brought him joy and satisfaction. He didn't need to impress other people. He didn't want the fame.

Even after he became successful, he continued to work busing at a restaurant, not admitting to being the star he was. He was different from many of the people typical of the industry whose main priority is money.

He didn't want to do the show Taxi at first because he said he couldn't be creative on a sitcom, even if it brought him fame.

I feel honoured, for his sake, this movie was made. It showed us what he was really about. My generation should learn more about him and keep his brand of entertainment alive.

This movie is excellent. I can't begin to express how phenomenal Canadian actor/comedian Jim Carrey, as Kaufman, is in this movie. I feel he deserves an Oscar for finding the soul of Kaufman and allowing the world to see it.

Some people didn't "get" Kaufman's humour. They didn't appreciate the movie.

I understand the original, unique mind he had and his creative approach to entertainment. I believe he's watching and I think he'd be proud of this movie.

Whether it's because of his roles as Mighty Mouse, Elvis, or Tony Clifton, I hope Kaufman's legend will continue to make people laugh for a long time. He taught me not to take life too seriously and to be thankful for this friendly, friendly world.

Jim Carrey is Andy Kaufman in the new docu-drama, Man on the Moon.

Photos from related Web sites

Tragically Hip performed sold out show New Year's Day

Tragically Hip fans filled the Air Canada Centre on New Year's Day.

By SHANNON MASTALER
Staff Writer

Smoke, sweat and anticipation filled the air at the Air Canada Centre (ACC) in Toronto on New Year's Day. A crowd of over 19,000 people awaited the arrival of the Tragically Hip.

Opening for the Hip were bands such as The Watchmen and The Headstones. These bands played a good show, but with so many fans awaiting the Hip, the attention wasn't exactly on them.

At 10 p.m. Gordon Downie, lead singer, entered the stage with Bobby Baker, guitar, Johnny Fay, drums, Paul Langlois, guitar and vocals, and Gord Sinclair, bass and vocals.

The crowd went wild and the incredible sound of screaming and hollering filled the ACC.

All it took were a few notes from the very popular song *Grace Two*, from the **Day for Night** album; and the crowd became ecstatic with immediate recognition of the song. Screams came from all ends of the ACC, as fans sang along and were entertained by Downie and his striking voice.

The Hip continued with songs such as *Fifty Mission Cap, Wheat Kings, Locked in the Trunk of A Car,* and *Poets.*

The band also introduced the crowd to three new songs that were well received by the fans.

The Hip delivered an energetic two-hour show. Downie performed his usual mesmerizing show by making faces, dancing, telling stories and making strange gestures. The crowd watched in amazement as he gave an example of his incredible energy.

The Hip came back on stage to perform two encores after the audience screamed endlessly for more. The last songs played included the band's more popular songs such as *Ahead By A Century* and *New Orleans* from the **Live Between Us** album, and *Fireworks* and *Bobcaygeon* from the **Poets** album.

The crowd went wild and the incredible sound of screaming and hollering filled the ACC.

As usual, The Hip pleased the crowd immensely. Most left overwhelmed and satisfied. The performance was incredible and personal. It made many people's New Year's Eve one they would never forget.

Blue Rodeo brings in new year with old songs, new CD

By TRACEY ALLISON
Staff Writer

Y2Kee!

Blue Rodeo rocked in the New Year at Muskoka's Kee to Bala Millennium Celebration.

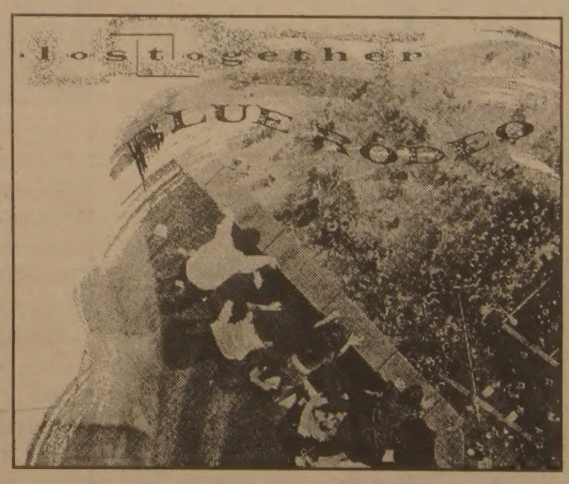
Many fans gathered in the beautifully decorated cottage-style Pavilion to bring in the new millennium with exciting entertainment at a cost of $250 for the evening.

Blue Rodeo played a lively, energetic show and kept revelers on their feet all night.

LMT Connection opened the evening with their rhythm and blues, soul, and Motown sounds at 8 p.m.

At 11:30 p.m. Blue Rodeo began their three-hour show on the colourfully lit stage. The crowd gathered on the dance floor below the band.

People enjoyed the view of Lake Muskoka from the fully enclosed heated patio. There were free noisemakers, hats, year 2000 crowns and Hawaiian leis. There was an enjoyable complimentary buffet and champagne available. Two video walls were set up with a satellite hook-up to New York City's Times Square.



Blue Rodeo played a lively, energetic show and kept the revelers on their feet all night. Fans sang along as the group played all of their biggest hits, as well as songs from the newest album, **The Days in Between**, released this month.

People danced and partied as Jim Cuddy, lead singer of the band, belted out his awesome vocals. Couples swayed to the sweet slow songs that gave the night a romantic feeling.

Blue Rodeo also performed selections from the albums **Five Days in July, Casino,** and **Nowhere to Here,** including such popular songs as *Till I am Myself Again, Lost Together, Try, Hasn't Hit Me Yet* and *Bad Timing* among other hits.

The band gave an intimate show and drew on the warmth of the friendly crowd's closeness. At midnight they shook hands with various people in the gathering, and afterwards the two lead singers, Greg Keelor and Cuddy, came out to sign autographs.

The members of the band distributed free copies of their new album to everyone at the end of the night.

Look for our Valentine's Day editon on Feb. 10

Niagara College offers students a wide variety of dental services available at minimal cost.

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SPORTS

Knights selected to basketball All-Star teams

Women

Tasha Warwick (left) and Candace Oxford will represent Niagara College's women's basketball game at the all-star game. The women's game will get under way at 5:30 p.m.

Photo by Jason Vizbulis

By JASON VIZBULIS
Staff Writer

The basketball all-stars are coming to Niagara College.

The 12th annual Ontario Collegiate Athletics Association (OCAA) All-Star game will be held at Niagara College's Welland campus gym tomorrow with both women's and men's teams well represented.

From Niagara College, the women's team will have Candace Oxford, a 5'7" guard from Niagara Falls. She's in the Business Administration — Operations Management program. As well, the roster includes Tasha Warwick, a 5'6" guard from London, Ont. Warwick is in the Correctional Worker program. In addition to the two players, the team will be coached by Niagara College's Georgie Groat.

Niagara's men's team will be represented by Ernell Ellis, from Brampton, Ont., who is in the General Arts and Science program, and Haldon Hutchinson. The six-foot-tall guard, No. 21, is a second-year student in the Business Administration program.

Both games will have an international element to them as players from around the world will be participating.

Yoshi Nakada, a guard from Japan, attends Mohawk College, in Hamilton, and Gina Mosie, a forward from Hereford, England, attends Georgian College in Barrie. Both players will be participating in the women's game.

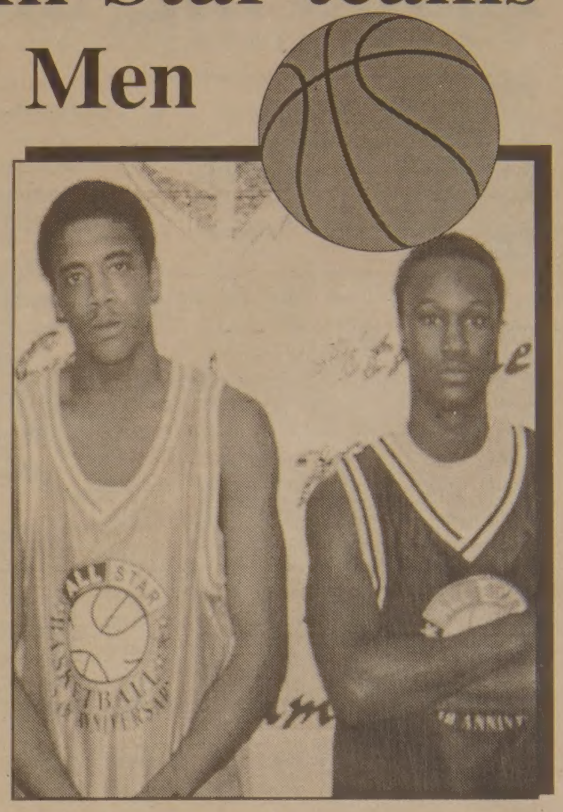
The men's game will have Andrew Richards, from Brooklyn, N.Y., a student at George Brown College in Toronto.

The participating colleges will engage in a three-point contest along with a mascot competition at half time.

Niagara College's Athletic Director Ray Sarkis said, "There will be all kinds of door prizes at the game." The big prize for the night will be a limousine for a night to go to the Air Canada Center to see a National Hockey League Toronto Maple Leafs game.

Niagara College students with identification will be offered a two-for-one ticket at $5 while the general public will be charged $5 each. The action starts at 5:30 p.m. with the women's game, followed at 8 p.m. by the men's.

Men



Ernell Ellis (left) and Haldon Hutchinson will represent Niagara College at the Ontario Colleges Athletic Association's men's all-star basketball game. The men's game starts at 8 p.m. in the Mackenzie building at the Welland campus.

Photo by Jason Vizbulis

Men victorious over No. 6 ranked Fanshawe Falcons

Huge one-point win for Niagara men's basketball team

By RAM KRISHNAMURTHY
Staff Writer

It was edge-of-your seat excitement at the Niagara College Welland campus gymnasium as the Niagara Knights men's basketball team hosted the Fanshawe College Falcons.

This game had tremendous importance for Niagara, considering Fanshawe College was ranked as the No. 6 college basketball team in Canada.

Going into this contest, the Knights had a league record of one win and two losses. They were able to up that record to three wins as they pulled off a thrilling 74-73 upset victory.

Knights' centre Ernell Ellis provided the audience with an outstanding performance by pumping in 34 points, scoring 20 points in the first half.

The Knights took a seven-point lead to the locker room at half-time and came out with a well disciplined second half. By staying out of foul trouble, the Knights were able to fend off the charging Falcons.

"We have a tough group of guys who worked very hard," said Niagara's first-year coach Ralph Nero.

Nero said sometimes his team has a tendency to get a little "over emotional." However, Niagara was able to keep the emotions in check to seal the win. "We have a banged-up team right now," said Nero.

Despite the injuries that have left Niagara's roster with a depleted bench, they continue to work hard and show people that they are worth watching.

Niagara's next game is tonight against Sault College from Sault Ste. Marie at 8:30 p.m. Niagara also played Sault College last night.

Volleyball team off to slow start

By MIKE WENCEL
Staff Writer

The Niagara College women's volleyball team is still looking for its first win of the millennium.

Niagara dropped another league game, losing to St. Clair College of Windsor. The women lost three straight games 26-24, 25-22 and 25-21 bringing their record for the season to two wins and five losses.

Despite Niagara's loss, the team played well by making each game exciting, switching points back and forth throughout every match.

"We made them earn every point in each match," said Laura Chatterton, assistant coach. "We made few errors, which is a great improvement as a team."

Despite the loss Niagara, found a new link to add to its arsenal. Vickey Smith, a 5'10" right side hitter from St. Catharines, came in for an injured Izzy Chavez half- way through the second match. Smith, a rookie for the Knights with limited playing time substituted in and played the middle position. She stuffed every attempt that St. Clair brought to the net.

Although Smith was having an excellent game at the net, Chavez returned in the middle after getting the OK from the trainer to return to the game.

Asked why she put Chavez back in, Chatterton said Smith is a backup right side hitter, not a middle player, "so we had to put Chavez back in because she has more experience playing the middle position."

Top players for Niagara were Diane VandenHoven with eight kills and one stuffed block, Ginni Llord with seven kills, and Jenn Carpenter with six kills, one ace, and one stuffed block.

The women will be back in action tonight against Sault College from Sault Ste. Marie.

Give'em an "A' for effort

The final 62-33 score didn't reflect the winning effort by the Niagara Knights' women's basketball team against Durham College of Oshawa on Jan. 18. In a continuing winless season, the team stood two points behind Durham 25 to 23 at the half only to see the game move beyond them. Here, No. 20, Trisha Newbold, guard, fends off two Durham players. The Thunder Bay student is in the paramedic program. An outstanding game was turned in by No. 24, guard Tasha Warwick, of London, Ont., who tallied 11 points in the first half but none in the second when she was held back. She's a student in the Correctional Worker program. Also on the board for the Knights was Jennifer Doyle, No. 42, forward, from Collingwood, Ont., who got six points in the first half and four in the second. She's a student in the Human Relations program. Head coach is Georgie Groat.

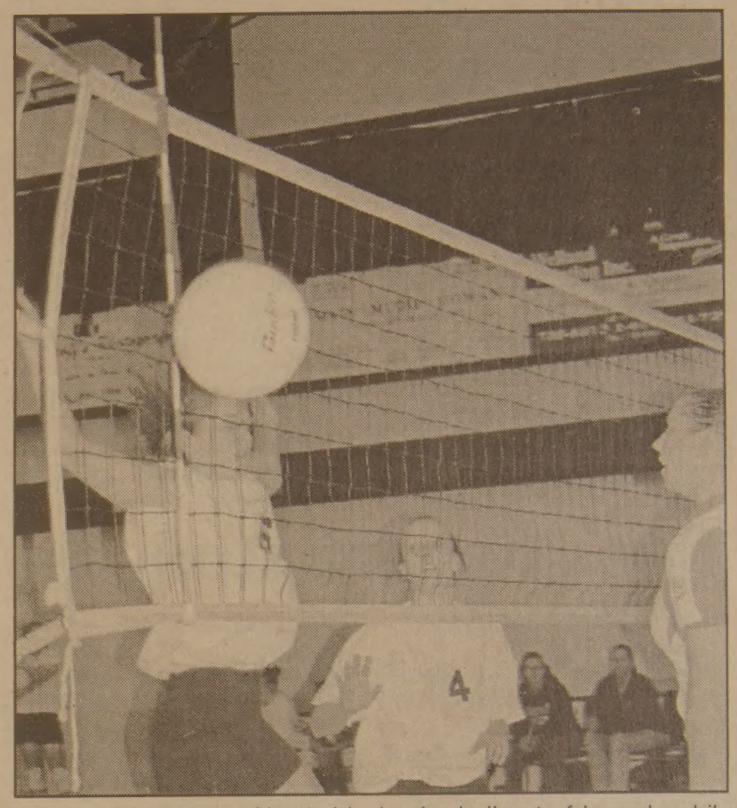
Photo by Mike Dilts

SPORTS

Lady Knights work early bugs out

Diane VanderHoven, No. 16, goes up for a kill during the Niagara Invitational on Jan. 8.

Photo by Mike Wencel



Heather Richardson, No. 6, blocks the ball out of bounds while Vickey Smith No. 4, looks on in league action against St. Clair College on Jan. 14.

Photo by Mike Wencel

By MIKE WENCEL
Staff Writer

Changes in the women's volleyball lineup caused a rough start in the new millennium at the Niagara College Invitational at the Welland campus on Jan. 8.

Heather Richardson, 19, a second year student in the Law and Security program, played her first games after sitting out the first half of the season.

"It was really frustrating sitting on the bench watching, because I really like to be out there playing all the time," said Richardson.

"Heather is adapting really well with the team, as well as the team with her," said Laura Chatterton, assistant coach.

With Richardson in the setter position and Erin Flegg playing right-side hitter, Chatterton said it brings a "whole new tempo" to the game.

Another major change to the lineup was the libero position, otherwise known as the defensive specialist. The libero can only play in the backcourt, substituting for any player in the back three positions.

Kelly Davies, 22, from Chatham, a first-year student in the Early Childhood Education program, has the determination, speed and aggressiveness to play this position.

Davies, who played power hitter earlier this season, was granted this position over the break, which is considered by most coaches as the most important position on the court.

"She's digging up 90 per cent of the balls, making our offence more effective," said Chatterton, adding, "Almost every time a ball is hit, she is there getting a piece of it.

"With Davies in the backcourt, every position is really strong through the entire game instead of just half."

The Niagara Knights went 0-2 through pool play, losing to Canadore College from North Bay and St. Lawrence College from Kingston. Niagara lost two games to one against Canadore by scores of 25-18, 21-25 and 14-16. Niagara lost two games to one to St. Lawrence College by scores of 23-25, 25-13 and 9-15.

'We just wanted to get the jitters out . . .' — Laura Chatterton

The Knights finished third in the pool, playing Nipissing University from Ottawa. The Knights went down in two games, losing 25-17 and 25-12.

Despite the poor results in the tournament, Chatterton said, "We just wanted to get the jitters out before we started league play because we have a big league game coming up against St. Clair (Windsor's St. Clair College)."

Niagara, which is 2-4 in league play, has five home games left and one away game.

"We want to go five and one the second half, so we can make the playoffs in second or third place," said Chatterton.

"With our new lineup, we should have a strong second half. We just have to stick together and play as team," the assistant coach said.

Buffalo teams prove they're second rate in world of sports

By MARTIN McQUAIG
Staff Writer
Column

Congratulations to the devil, the proud new owner of every soul on the Tennessee Titans football team after a debatable lateral pass on a touchdown-resulting kickoff return with 15 seconds left to beat the Buffalo Bills out of the playoffs.

You really have to be nuts to cheer for a pro sports franchise from Buffalo, N.Y.

Whether it's the Bills' losing four straight Super Bowls, or hockey's Sabres being ousted from last year's Stanley Cup finals on an impromptu amendment to the "in-the-crease" rule, this city ought to replace city hall with a giant hole in which they can collectively bury their heads.

I can't decide who whines more — the fans in Buffalo or the city's professional athletes. I'd like to feel sorry for Buffalo, but I don't. I'd like to feel sorry for the multi-millionaire athletes (whom I had once considered "heroes") but I don't.

Sabres' all-star goaltender Dominik Hasek is rewarded in the United States with millions of valuable U.S. dollars for his athletic talent. To thank this land of opportunity, Hasek blames the U.S. for all of the ills of society and decides (in mid-contract) to retire and take his family back to the Czech Republic, where he prefers the living conditions. This decision comes less than a decade after the U.S. helped bring down the Iron Curtain so that the standard of living could improve in Eastern Europe.

After a full season of armchair knuckleheads on talk radio in Western New York calling for Bills' quarterback Doug Flutie's head, head coach and fall guy Wade Phillips finally bows under the pressure. A ridiculous call by the coach and another by the wizards who control instant replay lost the Bills a shot at the big game, even though Flutie's replacement Rob Johnson held his own in his first playoff start.

They'll lose head coach Phillips, who will no doubt be fired. They'll also lose a crybaby receiver, in Andre Reed, who has been biting the hand that has fed him for the last 10 years and will probably be in the Hall of Fame one day because the fans and Bills' owner Ralph Wilson put up with it.

Worst of all, they'll lose Flutie, who has been stabbed in the back by the very organization he saved.

Wilson had threatened to move the team from Western New York unless the city built and the fans filled expensive new box seats. The Bills' record was 1-3 when Flutie began his valiant comeback to the National Football League (NFL). His gutsy style led the Bills to a playoff berth and kept the team in Buffalo with his impact on ticket sales.

Rather than spend $30 to see a game this year, Flutie's critics sat at home and let real football fans watch a class act keep this team in Buffalo. Who knows what will happen when his enthusiasm is no longer there.

If you're a depressed Bills' fan, maybe this will be of some comfort: last May, fans of Germany's Bayern Munich soccer club were only three minutes away from watching their team win the biggest prize in Europe, the Champions League Cup. Their team played a strong game until England's Manchester United popped in two quick goals just under the wire to steal the title. Compared to that, an NFL wildcard game is Pop Warner football.

A special note to Scott Norwood: the monkey is officially off your back.

WRESTLING

Professional wrestling coming to Niagara

By ROBERT LAPENSÉE
Staff Writer

I'm gonna tear you apart. I'm gonna take you in the ring and lay the smack down on your candy . . . uhh . . .

Sorry about that, folks. Just got carried away because the Empire Wrestling Federation (EWF) is coming to Niagara College.

Yes, it is true. Niagara College is hosting the EWF, an Ontario independent wrestling promotion, on Jan. 25. The promotion will feature an eight-match card in the gym in the Mackenzie building at the Welland campus and will be taped for television.

"It's the first time ever since '66 (when the college opened)," said Dave Rapelje, the college's manager of student life.

The eight-match event will feature up-and-coming talent like Ricky Stardust, Quinson Valentino, Shadow and Victoria, only to name a few competing in such matches as a battle royal, whose winner will fight The Judge, the EWF champion, later in the card.

Bob Woods, EWF director of wrestling, said the crowd could expect some fast-paced wrestling.

"We don't do a lot of hard core," Wood said. "It will be a lot of fast wrestling and crowd interaction. You can expect a lot of fast action and good-looking girls."

The EWF is referred to as an independent wrestling organization. Wood said that term is incorrect.

"We are the largest independent in Canada. We've done 127 shows this year. We aren't really an independent organization though. We are more like a federation."

Wood said the promoters of independent wrestling organizations bring in independent talent to put on shows. The EWF has all of its wrestlers under contract.

"All wrestlers have a three-year contract. We are like the World Wrestling Federation, only on a smaller scale."

After the show at the college, the EWF continues on to McMaster University in Hamilton. The show also stops at Mohawk College in Hamilton, Trent University in Peterborough, and Sheridan College in Oakville, as it continues its tour of Canadian colleges and universities.

The cost for putting on the show will be covered by the entertainment budget the Student Administrative Council (SAC) has set for the year.

Wood said it might cost anywhere between $2,500 and $3,000 to organize the event. Since wrestling is one of the hottest forms of entertainment these days, Rapelje said he wanted to bring pro wrestling to the college at a low cost.

The doors will open at 7:30 p.m. and the event will begin at 8 p.m. It is a licenced event and will have a bar set up in the gym. Rapelje said SAC would be sponsoring a sign contest, so feel free to bring signs.

The cost is $3 for the public. There will be no charge for Niagara College students, but Rapelje said students must have their student cards. All proceeds will go to the athletic department.

Anyone wanting more information on the EWF or its training program can contact Wood at (905) 336-0959. Long distance charges may apply. You can check out the EWF Web site at http://members.xoom.com/EWFED/index.htm.

Two Niagara students will settle their differences in ring

By JASON VIZBULIS
Staff Writer

It's put up or shut up time for two "sworn enemy" Niagara College students living in residence.

Rory "The East Coast Assassin" Frazier and Andrew "Pretty Boy" Hodges will settle their differences in an unprecedented professional wrestling match at Niagara College's Welland campus gym on Jan. 25.

Their match will headline the Empire Wrestling Federation (EWF) card featuring eight additional matches.

Hodges, 22, is in the computer programmer and analyst program. He is a resident assistant at the college's residence in Welland. He has been training for a year with the EWF and says that Chris Jericho is his favourite wrestler.

Hodges's nickname, "Pretty Boy," started "as a joke because I'm missing a tooth. I think I like it."

Frazier, 21, is in the General Arts and Science program. He has been wrestling professionally for a year and a half. Prior to pro wrestling he wrestled for 10 years as an amateur.

Frazier said that his favourite wrestler is Stone Cold Steve Austin. The nickname "East Coast Assassin" comes "from the east coast of Canada, in Nova Scotia, from a place called Bear River. It comes from kicking the hell out of people and being the little guy. They don't see me coming so it's almost like an assassination," Frazier said.

The real question, however, is what would make these fellow students so angry at each other they have to settle their differences in the ring.

Pretty Boy said, "He's from the east coast and he's really cocky and stuff and he walks around like he owns the place. He's an all right guy but all he talks about is the east coast and how great it is out there."

The East Coast Assassin disagrees. "Andrew thinks he's such a pretty boy but Pretty Boy Hodges is a pretty big punk. He likes talking his mouth off so I'm gonna have to smack him up on the side the head and knock that tooth right out of his mouth. It basically comes down to he's gonna know his role and shut his hole."

While Pretty Boy refused to say what his finishing move will be, the East Coast Assassin said his move, called the "leap of faith," will win him the match because he goes to the top rope and jumps.

"He'll feel the wrath because it will hurt like a stunner."

Admission is $3 for the public. Niagara College students get free admission with college identification.

Calling All Bands

The Niagara News is looking for bands from around Niagara interested in some needed EXPOSURE!
***"Riding the Riff IV"* will be published March 24, 2000.**
If your band has a CD to promo you'll want to be in this popular college edition.
In the past we have had to use a waiting list for interested bands.
For a fee of $25 we'll guarantee your band a spot in this year's edition.
You must be available for a photo and interview within the next few weeks.

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Life Issues

Smoke detectors for fire prevention

By SHANNON PALOMAKI
Staff Writer

It can smother you in one minute.

In the U.S., fire and smoke are the second leading causes of accidental deaths in the home, leaving the country with one of the highest fire death and injury rates in the world.

Statistics show that 5,000 people have died in house fires. More than 600,000 homes burn every year, causing more than $7 billion in annual property losses in the U.S.

In December, there was a lot of talk about the millennium approaching, but also the number of fatal house fires was increasing throughout the Greater Toronto Area (GTA), a matter of widespread concern.

In 1999, fire-related deaths in Toronto increased from 21 to 30 and have prompted initiatives to make changes in fire safety.

Some facts from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) say that almost half of all home fires, and three-fifths of fire deaths, occur in homes with no smoke detectors. There are more homes with smoke detectors that don't work than homes without detectors.

In college, many students are renting accommodation and have to be aware when they move in to check existing alarms throughout the home or apartment.

Fire Chief Alan Speed, of the GTA, has vowed to take legal action against owners who fail to provide and maintain smoke alarms. An owner can be fined up to $25,000 and jailed for up to one year if convicted of failing to maintain smoke alarms. However, it really doesn't matter after the fact, if a fire causes a death.

Some fire prevention tips are to place a smoke detector outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home, including the basement. For new homes, the NFPA requires builders to install smoke detectors inside each bedroom. Areas such as dens and living rooms should also have detectors.

Smoke rises, so detectors should be mounted high on a wall or on the ceiling. For wall-mounted detectors, units should be installed so that the top is 10 to 30 centimeters from the ceiling. Ceiling-mounted units should be installed at least 10 centimeters from any wall. In stairways with no doors at the top or bottom, a detector should be positioned in the path the smoke would follow up the stairwell.

Never install a detector too close to windows, doors or forced-air registers, where drafts could interfere with the detector's operation.

It is important to make regular maintenance a priority. Make sure the batteries are checked and replaced, usually every nine to 12 months. Test the detector once a month. Clean out dust, cobwebs or anything else that may interfere with operation. Never paint any part of a smoke detector.

Always have an escape plan with your family or roommate(s), including at least two ways to get out of every room in the house. Agree on a meeting place and practice the escape.

You can contact your local fire department if you should have any questions about the best places to install detectors. Many departments will conduct home smoke detector inspections for free, or for a small fee.

Taking responsibility for your smoke detector in your home is one simple task that can save a life, maybe even your own.

Travel with Breakaway Tours

By KYM CRAWFORD
and MONICA PALINIEWICZ
Staff Writers

Need a break? Go with Breakaway Tours.

Over the past 17 years, Breakaway Tours has provided thousands of groups with exciting travel packages.

Each year, more than 15,000 students take part in the tours, which has made Breakaway Tours the No. 1 student tour operator in the student leisure travel market.

These organized trips are not school sanctioned and don't have chaperones, giving students a lot of freedom.

Although students are free to do as they wish, Breakaway Tours offers information on the tourist sites and activities for the groups.

They have full-time staff and security at each hotel, many of whom are available 24 hours a day, but do not act as "babysitters."

With trips to Montreal, Que., Daytona Beach, Fla., and white water rafting expeditions, students are able to enjoy a quick getaway with prices they can afford.

For more information on spring break trips to Daytona Beach or Montreal or other getaways, check out www.breakawaytours.com or call 1-800-465-4257.

The thriving metropolis of Montreal has plenty to offer, from skiing, clubbing and shopping at a wide range of boutiques and bistros, typical to the city.

If students aren't interested in viewing the city's famous landmarks, such as Old Montreal, the clubbing and shopping aspects are equally exciting.

St. Catharine Street is the place to be in Montreal. It is a great place to shop, if you're willing to spend an arm and a leg. For example, a simple T-shirt can range anywhere from about $30 to $80.

Another perk about shopping in Montreal is that smoking is permitted in common areas of the mall, but obviously not in stores.

A more pleasant surprise was that of the price of food. It is very cheap to eat in Montreal, but alcohol prices remain about equal with that of Ontario's.

Some compare Montreal's club scene with Toronto's, but Montreal's is much more active and has a wider variety. Just a few clubs worth checking out are Metropolis, Foufonnes Electriques and Groove Society.

New Year's Eve in Montreal was quite a spectacle.

Police outfitted in riot gear patrolled the street, but no major incidences occurred. Foufonnes Electriques was an excellent place to bring in the new millennium. At the bargain price of $40 for cover and $1 for all drinks and free champagne at midnight, it was one of the least expensive clubs that night and to make things even better, the alternative tunes complemented the craziness of the millennium celebration.

If you're not bilingual, don't worry. Montreal is the most English — speaking city in Quebec. With a flavour all its own, Montreal is well worth looking into as a spring break destination for students.

Searching for a job?

By PAUL MOONEY
Staff Writer

One of the traditions of the New Year (besides getting completely blitzed with friends) is making a resolution. We are supposed to make a positive adjustment to our daily regimen that will somehow improve our life.

The word of the New Year for many Niagara College students is "job." With all the financial stresses associated with school and living away from home, making money seems to be on everyone's mind.

For all those students still searching, outside the Employment Service office in the Simcoe building at the Welland campus is a job board that has several job listings. The board lists numerous available positions, some of which are on campus.

If you still can't find a "gig" that suits your academic schedule, the Human Resource Centre for students (also known as the Job Gym) at the corner of Thorold and Niagara streets in Welland can help you out. With resources like an Internet job search and free résumé copies, your chances of getting work that's right for you is improved.

The Job Gym offers personal assistance and courses on how to improve your résumé and interview skills.

Jane DeJong, an employment service counsellor at the student centre, says students need to learn exactly how to find a job if they are going to be successful in their search.

"Students often turn to newspapers when trying to find work," says DeJong, adding, "This isn't an effective method because only three to six per cent of part-time jobs are advertised."

DeJong says students looking for a job that they can "handle with school," should present possible employers with not only an in-class schedule, but their schedules outside of school as well.

"Students have to give employers the opportunity to understand and respect their schedules."

Fun in the snow!

Five-year-old Alysha enjoys an afternoon rolling around in the snow at Niagara College's Child Care Centre, Welland campus.

Photo by Cassandra Simons

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